

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 OCTOBER 2005

RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 OCTOBER 2005

ARBROATH OLD PARISH KIRK FURNITURE

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report informs the Committee of the steps taken to preserve certain items of furniture and artefacts in the Arbroath Old Parish Kirk prior to its reuse as the Arbroath Access Office.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to approve the report.

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Council agreed (Report No.128/04) to convert part of the Arbroath Old Parish Kirk into the Arbroath Access Office. A use for the building has been sought for some time, and once this decision was made, a detailed study was made of the furniture, plaques and artefacts which could no longer be retained in the building.

The Access office conversion was not to affect the magistrates' gallery or the west wall where the organ and communion table are located and therefore all plaques and fittings there will be left in place.

However the plaques on the south wall, the Bellrock lens from 1963 which was exhibited in the entrance, the Arbroath Town Council's Provost's chair from the magistrates' gallery and a fragment of a stone medieval cross were all removed to Signal Tower Museum for safekeeping. They will be added to the collections of the museum and exhibited from time to time. The Bellrock lens, which is the property of the Northern Lighthouse Board, was with their agreement redisplayed at Signal Tower Museum in the Bellrock display, and was opened by the Convener on 10 May 2005.

One other chair bears a coat of arms, namely that of the Macdonald family of Hospitalfield. They were Patrick Allan Fraser's mother's family, and the Kirk has the triple lancet and rose window on its east wall, and there is also a plaque on the magistrates' gallery. The chair was the property of John Macdonald of Hospitalfield, and this has been returned to Hospitalfield.

The remaining chairs in the Magistrates' gallery, and indeed those in the Session Room bear no coats of arms and have no Arbroath locus. They were not to be retained for the access office. After consultation with all the Arbroath members, it was proposed to offer one chair to the Arbroath Abbey Pageant Society, and sell the others. The Pageant Society annually borrow one of these chairs for their Declaration Day re-enactments on 6 April, and also borrow one for their main Pageants, now usually each five years.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All in house costs in removing the artefacts and redisplaying the Bellrock Lens have been met by the Leisure Services Revenue budget. The proceeds of the sale of the surplus furniture will be accrued by the Arbroath Common Good Fund, less any costs of removal.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this Report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Acting Director of Finance and the Director of Property Services and the Arbroath Members have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.