

GORDON HIGHLANDERS COMMEMORATIVE STATUE WORKING GROUP

ABERDEEN, 4 October 2011. - Minute of Meeting of the GORDON HIGHLANDERS COMMEMORATIVE STATUE WORKING GROUP.
Present:- Lord Provost Peter Stephen, Chairperson; Councillors Boulton, Dunbar; Laing and Milne; and Sir Peter Graham, Lieutenant-Colonel Tobin Duke and Mr Ronald Webster.

Also in Attendance:- Major Grenville Irvine-Fortescue, Regimental Secretary; Lesley Thomson, Education, Culture and Sport; Daniel Parrott, Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure; Stella Evans and David Gow, Office of Chief Executive; and Stephanie Dunsmuir, Corporate Governance.

APOLOGIES

1. The Working Group received apologies from Councillor Reynolds.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Working Group had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 19 May 2011.

The Working Group resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

3. The Lord Provost advised the Working Group that he had been made aware of a planning application from the La Lombarda restaurant to formalise external seating outside the building. The Lord Provost noted that this could potentially conflict with the location of the statue, and advised that he had discussed his concerns with the Planning Officer. Councillor Boulton advised that the application had been approved at the previous week's meeting of the Development Management Sub Committee. Lesley Thomson added that if the seating was not extended from what was currently in place, it was unlikely to conflict with the statue location.

Danny Parrott advised the Working Group that he and Raymond Moffat had spoken to the Duty Manager at the restaurant and it had been agreed that the outside seating would be removed for the unveiling of the statue, to be reinstated after 1pm on the day of the event.

The Working Group resolved:-

to note the updates.

PROJECT UPDATE

4. Lesley advised that she had spoken to Mark Richards about the installation of the statue, and circulated photographs of the plinth which had been installed at the Castlegate. Mark would come to Aberdeen on 11 October to oversee the installation of the sculpture, and Lesley noted that it was not anticipated that there would be any problems with the installation. Lesley further advised that a Quick Response (QR) code had been set up for the statue, which would allow people to access a website with further information. Lieutenant-Colonel Tobin Duke queried where the code would be located, and Lesley undertook to check this information with Mark. Councillor Dunbar said that she had been aware that there had been discussions with the Gordon Highlanders museum about including the museum and statue in the QR code, and Sir Peter Graham advised that he thought this would be the case, but that Mark had dealing with this matter.

Lesley further advised that the Art Gallery was to provide a plinth to allow the maquette to be displayed in the Town House for the event. She noted that a secure location would need to be found for the maquette, and the Lord Provost asked that she contact the Town Sergeants to discuss the matter.

The Lord Provost asked whether a cost had been identified for the maquettes, and Lesley advised that Mark was to discuss this with the staff at the Art Gallery. Lesley suggested that an event could be held at the Art Gallery to market the maquette to businesses. The Working Group noted that it would be helpful to have an indicative price for the event on 15 October, as some people in attendance might be interested in purchasing a maquette. Lesley undertook to discuss the matter with Mark to see if it would be possible to include an indicative price in the press release to be issued prior to the event. Stella Evans suggested that an email address could be used for people to note their interest in purchasing a maquette.

Danny updated the Working Group on the seating arrangements and programme for the event on 15 October. He advised that the arrangements had been discussed with the Police and that there would be a secure area around the statue. The Gordon Highlanders pipe band would be placed near the statue, and seating would be included in the area for veterans, Mark Richards, and other invited guests. Danny also updated the Working Group on the road closures, and advised that he was discussing arrangements with the traffic police and the specialist police team. He noted that there was a proposed coach set-down area, but that the buses might need to move off and return later to collect passengers. Major Irvine-Fortesque advised that he was trying to find out the registration numbers of the two coaches, and would pass the information to Danny as soon as possible. Danny advised that Marischal Street and Justice Street would be closed off, and he circulated a map he had prepared which showed all the car parks in the surrounding area, alongside the walking time from each to the Castlegate.

David Gow then took the Working Group through the programme for the event, and advised that the Civic Administration unit would be issuing invitations shortly.

The Working Group then discussed the arrangements for the unveiling of the statue, and David advised that the Election Unit had Tensa barriers which could be used for attaching a ribbon to be cut. The Group also discussed the possibility of using a piece of material to cover the wording on the plinth which could be removed at the unveiling. It was agreed that Sir Peter Graham would meet with Danny at

9am on Friday 7 October, at which point they would go to the plinth and decide on how best to unveil the statue.

Councillor Milne asked if the ceremony was to be recorded, and Councillor Dunbar suggested that Station House Media Unit could be asked to record the event. David advised that this would need be checked with the Royal Press Secretary first.

Stella Evans advised that she would draft up the press release and said that she planned to include quotes from the Lord Provost, Sir Peter Graham, and Mark Richards.

The Working Group resolved:-

- (i) to note that Lesley Thomson would liaise with the Town Sergeants to identify a secure location in the Town House for the maquette;
- (ii) to request that Lesley contact Mark Richards to discuss an indicative price for the maquettes, prior to the issue of the press release about the ceremony; and
- (ii) to note that Danny Parrott and Sir Peter Graham would discuss the most appropriate material to be used for the unveiling of the statue.

VALEDICTORY

5. As it was the final meeting of the Working Group, Sir Peter Graham expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the Gordon Highlanders to Aberdeen City Council and the Working Group for the statue. He noted that it was a huge honour, and that the Gordon Highlanders museum was extremely grateful to the Council and its officials for bringing the original Council motion from June 2009 to fruition.

The Lord Provost also expressed thanks to all involved, noting that the project had been a real team effort.

- **LORD PROVOST PETER STEPHEN, Chairperson.**