

Item: 3

St Magnus Cathedral Sub-committee: 25 October 2022.

Installation of Plaque within St Magnus Cathedral.

Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider installing a plaque in St Magnus Cathedral recognising the financial contribution from The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral towards the new vestibule.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, during 2021/22, restoration work was carried out at the west end of St Magnus Cathedral which included the installation of a new vestibule.

2.2.

That The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral provided substantial financial support to enable the restoration works to take place.

2.3.

The proposal that a plaque be installed within St Magnus Cathedral to recognise and thank The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral for the financial support.

2.4.

That, should the proposal to install the plaque be approved, this would not set a precedent in relation to any other request to install a plaque or other permanent feature in St Magnus Cathedral.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That a plaque, recognising the substantial financial support from The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral in facilitating the restoration works at the west end of St Magnus Cathedral, be installed, subject to the following conditions:

- All costs in relation to the making and installation of the plaque being met by the Council.

- All required consents, including, for example, Listed Building Consent, being sought and conditions adhered to.
- The Cathedral Conservation Team approving and/or undertaking any required works which impact on the fabric of the building.

3. Background

3.1.

On 14 January 2021, the Council approved a revised Stage 2 Capital Project Appraisal in respect of proposed alterations to the West Door and access at St Magnus Cathedral. It was noted that The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral had agreed to increase its contribution to the works to £256,000, to meet, in full, the costs associated with proposed alterations to the West Door and access at St Magnus Cathedral.

3.2.

The restoration work, which included the installation of a new vestibule, was completed in April 2022 and has been met with acclaim from local people, visitors, churchgoers and other cathedral users. The new vestibule has considerably enhanced the visual aspect of the cathedral, both inside and out.

3.3.

The work could only be undertaken thanks to the generous financial support of The Society of the Friends of St Magnus Cathedral and it is proposed that this be acknowledged.

4. Installation of Plaque

4.1.

The size, style, materials, location and visual aspect of the plaque would be such as to require Listed Building Consent.

4.2.

It is anticipated that the plaque would be situated inside the vestibule at the West Door.

4.3.

Should the proposal to install a plaque be approved, it would be subject to the following conditions being met:

- All costs in relation to the making and installation of the plaque being met by the Council.
- All required formal consents, including, for example, Listed Building Consent, being sought and conditions adhered to.

- The Cathedral Conservation Team approving and/or undertaking any required works which impact on the fabric of the building.

4.4.

It should be noted that this does not set a precedent in relation to any other request to install a plaque or other permanent feature in St Magnus Cathedral.

5. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6. Financial Implications

The cost of producing and installing the plaque will be borne solely by the Council and met from within existing approved Cathedral revenue budgets.

7. Legal Aspects

There are no material legal implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

8. Contact Officers

James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, extension 2477, Email james.wylie@orkney.gov.uk.

Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, extension 2450, Email frances.troup@orkney.gov.uk.

Garry Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), extension 2440, Email garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk.

Nick Hewitt, Team Manager (Culture), extension 2716, Email nick.hewitt@orkney.gov.uk.

Fran Hollinrake, Visitor Services Officer, St Magnus Cathedral, Telephone 874894, Email fran.hollinrake@orkney.gov.uk.