

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 1.00pm 23rd March 2017 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Seóirse Bodley, Rhona Clarke, Michael Holohan, Brian Lynch, Tom McCarthy, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Jane O'Leary,

Apologies: Shelley McNamara.

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar

Resignation

The meeting was informed that Vivienne Roche has resigned from her position on the Toscaireacht. Members expressed their thanks to Vivienne for her contribution up to now.

Previous minutes and matters arising

Add the year to the date of the meeting. JO'L proposed the addition of her point regarding Toscaireacht support for the nomination of choreographers. This was agreed. The minutes incorporating amendments were proposed by JO'L and seconded by BL as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

MF tabled a letter dated 24th Feb 2017 received from Brian Higgins, OPW in response to correspondence from the Toscaireacht outlining the motion 14.3 from GA 2016 concerning a fine art commission for architecture.

MF tabled a letter dated 21st February 2017 received from Nessa Foley, Dept. Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in response to correspondence from the Toscaireacht outlining the motion 14.2 from GA 2016 concerning the filming of *Star Wars* on Skelling Michael and the protection of heritage sites.

Co-option of member to the Toscaireacht

Members welcomed Tom McCarthy who has kindly agreed to join the Toscaireacht since the last meeting. TMcC thanked the meeting.

It was noted that following the resignation of Vivienne Roche that consideration will need to be given to an additional co-option.

Nomination for Saoi

The Toscaireacht considered the recent nomination of a candidate for the position of Saoi. It was noted that the nomination had been made according to rule and could be presented to the membership for voting.

MF will liaise with the Registrar regarding the ballot procedure and timeframe.

New member election process

Evelyn Conlon has requested that the Toscaireacht examine the General Assembly procedure of members speaking to the nomination of artists proposed for membership. There is a sense that the outcome of the nomination process for an artist can be dependent on the speaker. The success or otherwise of the nomination should be determined by the quality of the work of the candidate artist. It was agreed that the Chair of the upcoming General Assembly will speak to this issue ahead of the ballot process.

General Assembly 2017

(i) Discipline ballot results

The Registrar confirmed that all 7 nominations passed the discipline ballot stage and would go forward for voting to the General Assembly. In addition, 10 nominations will be carried over.

(ii) Minutes of General Assembly 2016

Registrar will recirculate the draft minutes which need to be agreed for the GA 2017 papers mail-out.

Date of next meeting

TBC