

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 2.00pm 21st September 2016 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Rhona Clarke, Michael Holohan, Brian Lynch, Shelley McNamara, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Vivienne Roche.

Apologies: Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Jane O’Leary.

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar

1. Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes were proposed by ENiD and seconded by SMcN as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Condolences

MF led tributes on the deaths of Leland Bardwell, Basil Blackshaw and most recently Louis Stewart who have all passed away since the last Toscaireacht meeting. MH attended the funeral of Louis Stewart. It was noted that, as many people were on holidays when Louis Stewart passed away the usual practice of issuing a press statement on behalf of the Toscaireacht was not possible. AK informed the meeting that the Arts Council issued its own press statement, as is its practice, on the death of a member of Aosdána.

MF will write letters of condolence to the families of Leland Bardwell, Basil Blackshaw and Louis Stewart and a note will be included in the next communication to members.

MH will provide ‘appreciations’ text in relation to Louis Stewart for the Aosdána website.

It was noted that a consistent approach should be followed on the death of a member. This should include consistency on the length of the text for the tribute

General Assembly 2016

The draft minutes contain very comprehensive notes (for information) which need to be edited down. AK will circulate them to members of the Toscaireacht.

(i) matters arising – motions

It was agreed that the motions passed at the General Assembly on cultural heritage sites (14.2); the 1916 commemoration installation (14.3); and architecture and public policy (14.4) will be brought to the attention of the relevant parties.

MF will draft a letter to an Taoiseach and cc the OPW and Minister Heather Humphrys following on from motion 14.2 passed at the GA 2016.

MF will draft a letter to Minister of State Seán Canney T.D. (with responsibility for OPW) following on from motion 14.3 passed at the GA 2016.

MF will draft letter to the Taoiseach and cc Ministers for Finance, Arts, Environment, and Housing and also the OPW, following on from motion 14.4 passed at the GA 2016:

RC joined the meeting at 2.45pm.

(ii) GA 2016 – letters of thanks

MF will write letters of thanks to all those who presented at the GA 2016.

(iii) Aosdána email address

MF will follow up with Philip Casey about setting up an Aosdána email address with a provider that does not use advertisements.

SMcN departed the meeting at 3.10pm for another engagement.

Saoi Ballot

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.

It was agreed that all members who have opted to correspond by email would receive notification by email of the nomination and be given an option to register for an email ballot. If email people don't register for email ballot then they will automatically get a postal ballot.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

A.O.B.

The Toscaireacht wished to convey their best wishes to Anthony Cronin.