

# Minutes of a meeting of the Toscaireacht

**Date** 22 April 2008

**Time** 12 pm

**Location** 12 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

## Present

Anthony Cronin, Mannix Flynn, Mary FitzGerald, Alice Hanratty, Dermot Healy, Eibhlis Farrell and Sam Walsh.

## In attendance

Toby Dennett (Registrar), Charlotte Mangan (International Arts Assistant), Margaret Rogers (Child Protection and Welfare Adviser) for item 1 only.

## Agenda

1. Presentation on Arts Council Child Protection Guidelines
2. Apologies
3. Previous Minutes/Matters Arising
4. Nomination for Saoi
5. Minutes of General Assembly
6. Running order for the General Assembly
7. Motions for the General Assembly
8. Honouring interpretative and performing artists
9. A.O.B.

### 1. Presentation on Arts Council Child Protection and Welfare Policy

Margaret Rogers the Arts Councils Child Welfare Adviser gave a presentation on the Arts Councils Child Protection and Welfare Policy.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies from Macdara Woods, Seóirse Bodley and Brian Maguire were noted.

### 3. Previous minutes / matters arising

The following amendments to the previous minutes were agreed -

Item 3 to be amended to read:

*It was agreed that the Toscaireacht would not issue any public statements or contribute to any public debate concerning the fitness for membership of any member*

Item 5: To be amended to read:

*There was an extended discussion around the role that the Toscairí could and should play in regard to the rules and procedures governing Aosdá na.*

*It was agreed that not all members had a clear understanding of the Rules.*

*It was agreed that there must be a clear distinction between Aosdá na rules (which can only be changed with the consent of the Membership and approval of the Arts Council) and the processes and procedures operated by the Arts Council in its administration of Aosdá na*

*It was agreed that there was a need to provide clarity to members and others as outlined at the previous meeting and that the Toscairí would revisit the issues discussed at future meetings*

#### **4. Nomination for Saoi**

The Registrar reported that a nomination had been received for Seóirse Bodley to be appointed Saoi. Copies of the 15 nominations were distributed. The Toscaireacht unanimously agreed that the candidate was of merit and distinction and that the nomination had been made according to rule. It was agreed to proceed with the postal ballot.

#### **5. Minutes of General Assembly:**

Pending the correction of spelling errors, the minutes of the 2007 General Assembly were approved.

#### **6. Running Order for the General Assembly**

After discussion the Toscaireacht agreed the running order for the 2008 General Assembly as follows -

1. Election of chair
2. Minute s silence
3. Apologies
4. Welcome to new members
5. Saoi
6. Minutes/Matters arising
7. Report of Toscaireacht
8. Nominations for membership
9. Ballot
10. Cnuas negotiations
11. Arts Council proposal on interpretative and performing artists
12. Motions
13. Result of ballot
14. AOB

It was agreed that Dermot Healy would prepare the Toscaireacht Report.

It was agreed that Sam Walsh would Chair the General Assembly if no other nominations were forthcoming.

It was agreed that members should be requested to stand for the minute s silence.

#### **7. Motions for the General Assembly**

Two motions that had been provisionally agreed at the previous meeting pending some rewording were re-presented and it was agreed that they would be put forward as follows

Motion Proposed by Alice Hanratty Seconded by: Michael Kane

*Regarding the proposal by An Post to issue a stamp to mark the Ulster Plantation (1609) the General Assembly of Aosdá na wishes to draw the attention of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Mr Eamon Ryan TD and the Chief Executive of An Post to the inappropriateness of the proposal to commemorate that terrible event, an event that was designed to destroy as many as possible of the people of Ulster.*

Motion Proposed by Michael Holohan Seconded by: Dermot Healy

*That Aosdá na supports the recent statement (in the Irish Times <sup>st</sup>1/2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008) by our fellow member Seamus Heaney that the surrounding archaeological landscape beside the ancient hill of Tara has been desecralised by the construction of the M3 motorway and consequently Aosdá na calls upon*

*the minister for the environment, heritage and local government to strengthen the present legislation (National Monuments Act 2004) immediately in order to prevent the further destruction of our other national archaeological sites.*

The registrar reported that an additional motion had been received.  
Proposed by Mannix Flynn seconded by Philip Casey

*In light of concerns expressed by members of the public regarding Aosdá na's stance on the alleged exploitation of vulnerable young people by a member of Aosdá na, this assembly endorses the guidelines and principles set down in the Arts Council Booklet GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARTS SECTOR, and calls on individual artists to publicly endorse its principles.*

After extensive discussion a consensus could not be reached and the matter was put to a vote. It was agreed by 5 votes to 2 that the motion would not be put to the General Assembly

### **8. Honouring interpretive and performing artists**

Further consideration was given to the proposal presented by Mary Cloake at the previous meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the proposal should be put to the membership at the General Assembly for discussion. It was agreed that consideration should be given to setting up a sub committee or working party to explore the matter in more detail.

### **9. AOB**

There was no other business.

**ENDS**