

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht**

**Date** 10 November 2010

**Time** 11.30 am

**Venue** No 70 Merrion Sq

### **Present**

Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Theo Dorgan, Mannix Flynn, Dermot Healy, Hugh Maxton, Brian Maguire, Nick Miller, Jane O'Leary, Macdara Woods.

### **In attendance**

Toby Dennett (Registrar) and Niamh McCabe (International Arts and Artists' Supports Officer)

### **Agenda**

1. Election of Chair
2. Apologies
3. Previous minutes and matters arising
4. On-going chair for Toscaireacht
5. The new member nominations
6. Nomination process and discipline categories
7. Aosdána pension
8. Arts Council correspondence on interpretive and performing artists
9. Donal O'Kelly resignation
10. A.O.B.

#### **1. Election of Chair**

Brian Maguire was elected to chair the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies as all members were in attendance

#### **3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June were reviewed. Several amendments to the minutes were proposed and agreed.

Following these amendments it was agreed that the previous minutes would be published as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

- Re. Item 4: Following advice from the Registrar the Toscaireacht agreed that on the grounds of equality of opportunity and in consideration of a previous legal case taken against Aosdána it would not be appropriate to require that nominators state the date of birth of those whom they are nominating. It was agreed that the Registrar should write to Imogen Stuart and thank her for her contribution.

- Re. Item 6: The Chair confirmed that he had met the Director of the Arts Council in order to clarify arrangements for Toscaireacht meetings as a consequence of her address to the Toscaireacht in June. The Chair confirmed the Director's insistence that if the Toscaireacht were necessitated to have a meeting then such a meeting would be facilitated by the Arts Council. It was suggested that meetings of the Toscaireacht could be divided into those which discuss theoretical issues etc. and which therefore could be discussed at informal meetings and those which required formal meetings and that the recommendations from informal meetings could be brought to formal meetings for approval.
- Re Item 6: The Chair noted that he had recently contacted TBCT regarding their proposed collaboration with Aosdána and that he would inform members when a date had been set for a meeting.

#### **4. On-going chair for Toscaireacht**

The Chair suggested that the Toscaireacht consider the possibility of appointing an on-going Chair and deputy Chair for Toscaireacht meetings on an annual basis. The appointed Chair would both chair the meetings of the Toscaireacht and also be available to the Registrar between meetings and ensure that minutes, correspondence etc. were acted on.

The Registrar reminded the meeting that the current Aosdána hand book provides that "the Toscaireacht shall nominate one of its members to have a particular role, for example to act as the contact person for Aosdana between meetings of the Toscaireacht"

It was agreed that the position would be an acting position until it went to the GA. It was agreed that the Toscaireacht adopt this proposal on an interim basis and that the matter be put to the General Assembly.

Following some discussion was unanimously agreed that Brian Maguire be appointed as the acting Chair and Nick Miller as acting deputy Chair.

#### **5. The new member nominations**

The Toscaireacht examined all new member nominations received. The following nominations were approved:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Chris Agee       | • John McKenna           |
| • Elaine Agnew     | • Emer Martin            |
| • John Arden       | • Jay Murphy             |
| • Oliver Comerford | • Jacques Piraprez Nutan |
| • Shane Cullen     | • Kathlyn O'Brien        |
| • Anne Devlin      | • Pádraig O' Cíobháin    |
| • Ciarán Farrell   | • Joe O'Connor           |
| • Dennis Farrell   | • Michael O'Loughlin     |
| • Frances Hegarty  | • Joe Steve O'Neachtain  |
| • Patrick Jolley   | • Seán O'Reilly          |
| • Stephen Lawlor   | • Garrett Phelan         |
| • Brian Leydon     | • Tommy Peoples          |

- Mark Roper
- Stephen Rothschild
- John Tuomey
- Corban Walker
- Lorcan Walshe
- Daphne Wright

The Toscaireacht asked the Registrar to request revised and/or amended letters of nomination as outlined below:

- Anne Devlin ( Michael Longley- requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question and remove 3<sup>rd</sup> party quotes)
- Jacques Piraprez Nutan (David Shaw-Sminth and Barrie Cooke both requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question)
- Kathlyn O'Brien (Fergus Martin to remove 3<sup>rd</sup> party quotes)
- Pádraig O'Ciobháin (Gabriel Rosenstock requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question)
- Michael O'Loughlin (Peter SIRR and Brian Lynch both requested to remove the 3<sup>rd</sup> party quotes from their letters of nomination)
- Joe Steve O'Neachtain (Micheál O'Conghaile requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question, to remove 3<sup>rd</sup> party quotes and to ensure that the letter of nomination is not submitted on commercial stationary)
- Garrett Phelan (James Coleman requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question)
- Corban Walker (James Coleman requested to include a personal critical response to the work of the artist in question and remove 3<sup>rd</sup> party quotes)

## **6. Nomination process and discipline categories**

The Chair read a letter received from member Paul Mosse outlining his concern that no visual arts nominee was successful at the discipline ballot last year. The Registrar reminded member of a letter received previously from Alice Maher which also outlined concerns regarding the discipline categories as they relate to the voting process.

The Registrar informed members of the voting process that is currently used and of the changes that were implemented following a decision at the 2007 General Assembly.

The Toscaireacht requested that the chair prepare a paper on this issue for discussion at the next General Assembly. The Chair agreed to undertake this. It was also agreed that the registrar should write to Paul Mosse acknowledging his letter and informing him that his comments and concerns were being fed into an on-going process on the issue.

## **7. Aosdána Pension**

At the request of the Chair the Registrar outlined basic information on the Aosdána pension. Theo Dorgan sought clarification as to whether members can withdraw from the pension. The Registrar confirmed that this is the case.

The Chair requested the Registrar to draw up an information sheet for members that would provide answers to some of the common question that members have about the pension.

It was agreed that the issue of the Aosdána pension could be put on the agenda for a potential Aosdána policy meeting.

### **8. Arts Council correspondence on interpretive and performing artists**

The Chair read a letter recently received from the Director of the Arts Council inviting nominated members of the Toscaireacht to attend a meeting to discuss the Arts Council's proposal regarding interpretative and performing artists.

Following discussion the Toscaireacht agreed on the text of a letter to be sent as a response to Mary Cloake.

The Toscaireacht agreed to nominate 3 delegates to attend a meeting with the Arts Council. Those nominated were Seirse Bodley, Jane O'Leary and Bill McCormack. It was stressed that this delegation did not have decision powers.

### **9. Donal O'Kelly resignation**

The Chair reminded members of the correspondence on this matter to date.

In the interests of best practice and to avoid any perception of a possible conflict of interest Mannix Flynn left the room for the discussion of this agenda item.

Following discussion the Toscaireacht agreed on the basis of a response to be sent to Donal O'Kelly to be prepared by the Chair. Due to the sensitivity involved in this matter it was agreed that the chair would circulate the response to members in order that a consensus be established.

### **10. AOB**

There was no other business.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 5 pm.