

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 2.00pm 14th March 2018 at O'Connell Room, Notre Dame International, 58 Merrion Square, D.2.

Present: Michael Holohan (Chair), Cathy Carman, Rhona Clarke, Eamon Colman, Anne Haverty, Tom McCarthy, Geraldine O'Reilly, Bob Quinn, Samuel Walsh, Vincent Woods.

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar (Acting)

1. Apologies: None.

2. Minutes of Toscaireacht meeting of 15th February and matters arising

It was agreed that the minutes are an accurate reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by VW and seconded by GO'R. There were no matters arising.

3. Condolences

MH will submit a notice on RIP.ie and a tribute to the Irish Times for Val Mulkerns on behalf of the membership.

4. General Assembly 2018

The deadline for the discipline ballot for new members has passed. MH will oversee the discipline ballot count with the Acting Registrar.

AK confirmed that the date for the 2018 General Assembly will be Monday 28th May. This has been communicated by email to the membership. It will be held at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. All members who use email will have the papers emailed to them. A follow up hard copy can be sent by post on request. Members who do not use email will have the papers posted to them in the first instance.

5. Update on General Assembly 2019

TMcC reported that a very positive response had been received from UCC in relation to holding the General Assembly in the Aula Maxima in 2019. The timing of the GA will have to fall outside of the exam period. AK informed the meeting that the Arts Council could support the costs of venue hire and lunch and audio-visual requirements. UCC may be in a position to contribute to costs. TMcC and AK will follow up with UCC. The potential for one or two tie-in public events with local arts venues was discussed and this will be further explored.

The idea of having the General Assembly in Galway in 2020 for the European Year of Cultural Heritage was discussed and it was agreed that this would be further explored. It was **agreed** that AK would contact UCG regarding availability of a potential venue.

6. Ciste Cholmcille

MH informed the meeting that he had recently become aware that an Additional Function Amendment Order had been made to the Arts Act, 1951 in 1980 regarding the Ciste Cholmcille. The order enables annuities or grants to be paid to dependents of creative artists where the artist has not been able to provide for them. It was **agreed** that a general explanation of the process for an individual to access support from the Ciste Cholmcille should be made known and possibly displayed on the Arts Council website.

7. Update on social welfare payments for artists

GO'R followed up with Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) for more information on the pilot scheme for artists to access Jobseeker's Allowance. Between 60 -70 artists have availed of it to date. Artists must be registered as self-employed to be eligible. It was **agreed** to keep a watching brief on the pilot scheme in terms of its potential benefits and drawbacks for individual artists.

8. Public profile of Aosdána

The meeting held a short discussion on the potential for using social media to raise the public profile of Aosdána. It was **agreed** that an Aosdána twitter feed should be initiated with the purpose of sharing information on the current work by members (similar to the 'Dates for your Diary' which is emailed weekly to members by the Aosdána Assistant). It was **agreed** that members should send details of what they want to share on twitter to the Aosdána Assistant. AK confirmed that the Arts Council could facilitate this.

The above was proposed by Bob Quinn and seconded by Sam Walsh.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd May at 2pm.

10. AOB

A recent article in the Irish Arts Review about the Cnuas contained inaccuracies. MH has contacted John Mulcahy and he confirmed that a statement addressing the inaccuracies will be posted on the online version of the Irish Arts Review.

11. Private Session

The Registrar left the meeting.