

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 3.00pm 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

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

**Apologies:** Samuel Walsh

**In attendance:** Audrey Keane, Registrar (Acting)

## **1. Welcome**

The Acting Registrar welcomed the members of the newly appointed Toscaireacht to their inaugural meeting.

## **2. Vote of thanks – former Toscaireacht**

MH proposed a vote of thanks to the former Toscaireacht members. TMcC seconded the proposal which was unanimously supported. In particular the meeting expressed thanks to Mary FitzGerald and to Brian Lynch for their tremendous hard work on behalf of the members.

## **3. Appointment of Chair**

GO'R proposed Michael Holohan as Chair of the Toscaireacht. Bob Quinn seconded this.

## **4. Previous minutes and matters arising**

Amend the initials GO'N to GO'R under the item of previous minutes and matters arising. Otherwise the minutes are an accurate reflection of the meeting. This was proposed by GO'R and seconded by MH.

## **5. Condolences**

During the past few weeks Aosdána has lost a number of eminent members, poet Richard Murphy, writer Philip Casey and visual artist Patrick Pye. MH put notices of condolence on the RIP.ie site and attended the funerals of Philip Casey and Patrick Pye to represent the Toscaireacht.

## **6. General Assembly 2018**

The suggestion of organising a meeting outside of Dublin was mooted by BQ and a discussion ensued. The idea received a very positive response but given time constraints for this year it was decided that a concrete proposal for holding the meeting at a location outside of Dublin in 2019 would be developed and presented at the GA 2018. Given that the Toscaireacht are newly appointed it was thought that a meeting in early to mid-April was not feasible. The Registrar will follow up with potential venues for a date for late April or first two weeks of May.

GO'R raised a discussion on the Visual Artists' Ireland pilot scheme for artists to access Jobseeker's Allowance. MH said he spoke on the topic on Newstalk today. It appears to be a progressive measure for artists that Aosdána might wish to publicly acknowledge and support. It was agreed that some further research into the scheme was warranted to determine its potential positive and negative consequences for artists. GO'R will follow up with VAI for more details with a view to presenting a motion at the General Assembly.

#### **7. Date of next meeting**

3pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Venue to be confirmed.

#### **8. Private Session**

The Registrar left the meeting.