

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date: 5 July 2012
Time: 13.00 – 16.00
Venue: Offices of the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Present

Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Theo Dorgan, Mary FitzGerald, Alice Hanratty, Brian Maguire.

Apologies

Shelley McNamara, Jane O'Leary, Mary O'Malley.

In attendance

Toby Dennett (Registrar)

Agenda

- Apologies
- Previous minutes and matters arising
- General Assembly
 - Issues arising
 - Draft minutes
 - Follow up to motions
- Matters arising from meeting with Council
- Streamlining relationship with Arts Council and reviewing rules and procedures
- Correspondence received from Micky Donnelly
- Schedule for working to 2013 General Assembly
- AOB

1. Apologies

Apologies were given to the meeting on behalf of Shelley McNamara, Jane O'Leary and Mary O'Malley.

The members extended their sincere best wishes to Jane O'Leary and thanked her for responding by email to issues that had arisen prior to the meeting.

It was reported by the Registrar that Dermot Healy had decided to resign from the Toscaireacht. The members extended their thanks to Dermot for his work and the commitment given over the course of the current and several previous Toscaireacht terms.

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the Toscaireacht meeting held on 26 March 2012 were reviewed and approved with minor amendments as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

3. General Assembly

Issues arising

Members agreed that the General Assembly was a successful and productive event.

Draft minutes

The members reviewed the draft minutes. A number of amendments were noted and agreed. It was agreed that a thorough proofing of the minutes would be required.

Follow up to motions

It was reported by the Registrar that in all cases where a minister or a Government Department or Agency had been referenced in a motion that relevant Minister had been written to in order to draw his/her attention to the existence of the motion.

It was reported that the motions regarding the amalgamation of national institutions had been brought to the attention of Minister Deenihan.

It was reported that a number of acknowledgments had been received but no substantive replies had been made in response to any of the motions.

The following actions were agreed –

Re the two motions on amalgamations:

It was agreed that the motions would be brought to the attention of Brendan Howlin. The letter to be drafted by the Registrar and signed by the Chair. It was also agreed that the chair would seek a meeting with Minister Jimmy Deenihan.

Re the two motions pertaining to information provision at heritage sites and disability access to cultural buildings:

It was agreed that the Registrar would send another letter to the relevant parties seeking a response.

Re the motion relating to the RTÉ Orchestra:

It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with Seóirse Bodley to draft a letter to be sent to Minister Pat Rabbitte and Minister Jimmy Deenihan. The letter to be signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from meeting with Council

The members discussed the meeting between the Arts Council and the Toscaireacht held on 28 May.

Members agreed that the meeting was successful in restoring contact with the Arts Council. It was noted that there was a warm welcome from Council members.

It was noted that the Council had asked Aosdána to consider the role it might play as an advocate for the arts.

5. Streamlining relationship with Arts Council and reviewing rules and procedures

The members reviewed the material that had been submitted by members.

It was agreed that the best way to deal with a review of the rules and procedures was to set up a small working party. Theo Dorgan and Mary FitzGerald agreed to form the working party and report to the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Registrar should write to all those that had submitted suggestions to thank them for their contribution and to advise that the Toscaireacht were considering the matter.

6. Correspondence received from Micky Donnelly

The members reviewed correspondence received from Mickey Donnelly regarding the perception of Aosdána. It was agreed that the Registrar should write to Micky Donnelly to thank him for his contribution.

7. Schedule for working to 2013 General Assembly

The Registrar distributed a draft schedule covering the new member nomination and election process leading up to the 2013 General Assembly. The schedule was approved with 1 amendment. It was agreed that the deadline for new member nominations would be some time week beginning 1 October and that the Toscaireacht meeting to approve nominations would fall on week beginning 15 October. The registrar advised members that a venue and date would need to be fixed for the 2013 General Assembly in the upcoming period.

The Registrar also reminded members that Ireland's tenure of the EU Presidency would fall within the first 6 months of 2013 and that the Toscaireacht might consider if the General Assembly of Aosdána could play some part in marking the occasion. The Registrar briefed members on the programme the Arts Council would be operating during the EU Presidency.

A number of ideas were discussed. It was agreed that members should reconvene informally to discuss the matter and report back to the Registrar.

8. AOB

The chair reminded members that on foot of Dermot Healy's resignation it was open to the members to co-opt an additional member onto the Toscaireacht. The chair invited nominations to be brought for discussion to the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on week beginning 15 October.