

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date 15 February 2010

Time 1pm

Venue No 70 Merrion Sq

Present

Anthony Cronin, Theo Dorgan, Mannix Flynn, Hugh Maxton, Jane O'Leary, Macdara Woods

In attendance

Toby Dennett (Registrar) and Katie Lowry (International Arts and Artists' Supports Officer)

Agenda

- Election of Chair
- Previous Minutes and Matters Arising
- General Assembly
- Discipline ballot
- Agenda items suggested by members:
 - Role of the Arts Council in Artists Tax Exemption (Anthony Cronin)
 - Vanbrugh Quartet (Jane O'Leary)
 - Implications of recent Arts Council funding decisions for artists (Jane O'Leary)
 - Discussion of *On Thinking in Ireland* (Dermot Healy)
- AOB

1. Election of Chair

Hugh Maxton was elected to chair the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Seóirse Bodley, Dermot Healy, Brian Maguire and Nick Miller.

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting pending the removal of a bullet point from Item 6.

The Toscaireacht agreed that the minutes of the meeting dated 9 October 2009 should be forwarded to Alan Stanford.

4. General Assembly

The Registrar updated the meeting on the ongoing discussions regarding the proposal to host the General Assembly in Armagh.

The 15 April was agreed as the date for the General Assembly with members traveling on the preceding evening.

The Toscaireacht asked the Registrar to request that a member of Aosdána be permitted to make an address at the dinner.

The meeting concurred that there was no enthusiasm to have a third day added to the General Assembly and also agreed that the event should take place in one venue.

The meeting requested that the Registrar provide a breakdown of Aosdána members living in Northern Ireland at the next Toscaireacht meeting.

5. Discipline Ballot

Theo Dorgan agreed to oversee the count for the discipline ballot.

In response to a letter received from Brian Friel and Peter Fallon regarding the proposed date of the General Assembly, the meeting requested that the Registrar communicate the following to them:

- That the date of the meeting has been set
- That another member can be nominated to speak to the nomination of Vona Groarke
- That a letter could be written ahead of time and read aloud on their behalf at the Assembly

6. Agenda items suggested by members:

Role of Arts Council in Artists Tax Exemption

After a lengthy discussion on the workings of the Artists Tax Exemption it was agreed the issue should be presented in some form at the upcoming General Assembly. In order to assist with this it was decided that the Registrar should provide the following materials ahead of the next Toscaireacht meeting:

- Copy of the Act
- Copy of Charles Haughey's comments on the original bill
- Copy of the Revenue Guidelines
- Information on the Arts Council's involvement in artists exemption scheme

Vanbrugh Quartet

Jane O'Leary drew the members' attention to previously circulated correspondence relating to the status of the Vanbrugh Quartet and its relationship with RTE.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Jane O'Leary should draft a letter requesting clarification from RTE on:

- the basis on which the report on the provision of chamber music was commissioned
- How the study was conducted
- When the report would be available

The Registrar would then forwarded on the letter on to RTE.

Implications of recent Arts Council funding decisions for artists

The Toscaireacht discussed at length the Arts Council's support for individual artists through its range of provisions.

Discussion of *On Thinking in Ireland*

In the absence of Dermot Healy who had proposed the item for discussion the topic was postponed.

7. AOB

18 March was agreed as the next meeting date

ENDS