

## **Minutes**

### **Meeting of Toscaireacht, at The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2**

**4pm – 630pm, 21 May 2019**

#### **Present**

Michael Holohan (Acting Chair); Cathy Carman; Anne Haverty; Thomas McCarthy; Geraldine O'Reilly; Rhona Clarke; Bob Quinn; Eamon Colman

#### **In attendance**

Karen Hennessy (Aosdána Registrar)

#### **Apologies**

Vincent Woods, Samuel Walsh

#### **Previous minutes and matters arising**

Discussion ensued on the recent Saoi election. The Registrar informed that the Arts Council is waiting on a date from the President's office and that a point of liaison has been established.

Discussion on the web site. It is now live. There is no description on it on the Foundation of Aosdána. It was explained that the working group needs to meet to further discuss this. It was outlined that meanwhile it is a welcome development that the old wording on the old web site no longer exists. In the interim the new web site states the date of the foundation of Aosdána. The new web site is easy to update and can be updated with new wording at any time. It was stated that the relationship of the working group is good. Now that there is a new Chair of the Arts Council in place a meeting date will be set for September.

It was outlined by the Toscaireacht members of the working group that the wording is developing and that whilst the Toscaireacht has been in email communication on it, it has not come together to pin it down line by line. There was broad agreement that Colm O Briain had a central role to play as well as Anthony Cronin. The 12 point summary by Dick Stokes which became the document widely circulated within Government was assisted by Colm O' Briain's original draft for Aosdána. It was further mentioned that the National Archives documents distributed by the Registrar show the level of contribution and involvement of the Arts Council.

Bob Quinn proposed the minutes and Geraldine O'Reilly seconded them. The minutes of the meeting of 15 March were adopted.

#### **Election of new Chair**

Michael Holohan retired as Chair of the Toscaireacht. The members of the Toscaireacht thanked Michael for his tenure. Anne Haverty was proposed as new Chair by Thomas McCarthy and seconded by Michael Holohan. Anne Haverty accepted and was deemed elected as new Chair of the Toscaireacht. The new Chair took position at the top of the table and continued to Chair the meeting.

It was noted that the current Toscaireacht continues until 19 Jan 2020 and that a new Toscaireacht will be elected then.

### **General Assembly Cork – Re-cap / Letter to University**

The Registrar outlined that the Arts Council had sent a letter to the President of UCC to thank him and all staff at UCC. The Toscaireacht had also sent a letter. There was lots of positive feedback to the Assembly being in UCC. The attendance was good and the Agenda stimulating. There was great appreciation for the students of UCC and their contribution.

### **General Assembly and Galway 2020**

Bob Quinn supplied a report of attending a meeting in Galway of Galway2020, hosted by Liz Kelly and Helen Marriage and the information he had learned. The overall feeling was that to host the GA outside of Dublin two years in a row is a big ask of members and that it would be better to wait and go to Galway another year. Bob Quinn would write a letter to explain and state that the Toscaireacht would be very enthusiastic about visiting at a later date.

### **Statistical Presentation – Response**

An update was given by the Registrar as to the positive response received by members regarding the information presented at the Assembly. One member had on foot of this written a detailed account to the Registrar in relation to nominating, voting patterns and growth in artforms. The Toscaireacht agreed that this should be part of the discussion of the Aosdána/Arts Council working group. It is on the Agenda for the working group to discuss the nomination process and growth in artform patterns and to find ways to correct imbalances that currently exist amongst the disciplines.

### **Report on Joint Committee on Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht “*The Arts Matter*” Report May 2019**

Michael said he would send on a PDF of the report just released that had come out of the 2 year process of the Joint Committee on Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht “*The Arts Matter*” Report.

**Anthony Cronin Award and Dermot Bolger - Tie in with next meeting date end June/July**  
Dermot Bolger is happy to attend a public event and is available in the Summer.

### **Web site – live / history of Aosdána / promotion / culture night**

This item was moved to the next meeting agenda

## **Follow up**

Bob Quinn to write to Galway2020 to indicate that in light of being in UCC in 2019 that it would be better for the membership to have the General Assembly in Galway at a later date.

Registrar to include discussion on the nomination process and growth in artform patterns on the Aosdána/Arts Council working group agenda.

Registrar to write to outgoing Chair to thank him and write to incoming Chair to welcome.

Registrar to conduct a doodle poll for the next meeting to be end June or July and to tie –in Anthony Cronin Award presentation to Dermot Bolger at this time.