

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht**

**Date:** 19 December 2007

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Venue:** The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square

### **Present:**

Mannix Flynn, Mary Fitzgerald, Alice Hanratty, Dermot Healy, Brian Maguire, Samuel Walsh, Macdara Woods, Anthony Cronin, Eibhlís Farrell

### **In attendance**

Toby Dennett (Registrar), Niamh McCabe (International Arts and Artists' Supports Officer) Niamh White (International Arts and Artists' Supports Assistant)

### **Papers before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of meeting

Nomination papers

### **Agenda**

- Election of Chair
- Apologies
- Previous Minutes/Matters Arising
- Registrar's Report
- Review of Nominations for New Members
- Review of Nominations for Saoi
- Press liaison for Aosdána
- AOB

### **1. Apologies and Introductions**

Toby Dennett extended a warm welcome to the new Toscaire Eibhlís Farrell . Apologies from Seoirse Bodley were also noted.

### **2. Election of Chairperson**

Brian Maguire was nominated to chair the meeting by Dermot Healy and seconded by Alice Hanratty.

### **3. Previous Minutes/Matters Arising**

The Toscaireacht agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Re. item 2 - Dermot Healy raised the issue of the possibility of the proposed chair not turning up. It was decided that a chair and sub should be chosen in advance of meetings.

Re. item 4 - The Chair welcomed Eibhlís Farrell to her first meeting as a member of the Toscaireacht.

Re. item 5 - The Chair requested an up date on any news relating to the raising of Cnuas.

The Registrar reported that;

- The level of the Cnuas had been discussed by the Policy and Strategy Committee and by Council.
- That there was a general acceptance in principle that the Cnuas needed to be increased
- In light of the budget allocation from the Department for 2008 and the level of existing commitments the Arts Council was still considering its options.
- the raising of the Cnuas is an issue that the Chair of the Arts Council is fully committed and that she has made representations to government at the highest level.

The Toscaireacht noted that they “welcome the registrars’ report of the progress of our submissions, with regard to the level of the Cnuas proposed AC, seconded by Sam Walsh.”

Re. item 5

Dermot Healy submitted a proposal regarding the possibility of publicly accessible exhibitions/readings/ recitals etc being held as part of the General Assembly. It was suggested that this would be a way for members to engage with their peers as well as addressing any perceived notions about the public value of Aosdána, which might have arisen as part of the wider discussions around the raising of the Cnuas

Varying views were expressed by Toscairí . It was agreed that it was not necessary or appropriate for Aosdána to enter into any such bargaining as part of its request for an increase in the Cnuas.

#### **4. Registrar’s report**

The Registrars report was circulated.

Matters Arising:

The Toscaireacht agreed that they did not want to be informed of applications for the Cnuas.

The Toscaireacht agreed that the option of holding the General Assembly in either Dublin, Cork or Belfast should be considered.

## **5. Nominations for new members:**

The nominations for new members were examined and the following nominations were approved:

- Yvonne Farrell
- James Hanley
- Claire Keegan
- Sheila O'Donnell
- Tim Morris
- John Tuomey

The following were asked to re-submit a letter of nomination:

- Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's nomination of Barbara Freeman
- Harry Clifton's nomination of Peter Sirr
- Mick O'Dea's nomination of Stephen Lawlor
- John Behan's nomination of John Ffrench
- Maud Cotter's nomination of Francis Hegarty
- Desmond O'Grady's nomination of John Liddy

It was requested that nominators be asked to ensure that their letters contain a personal critical response to the nominees work and clearly state their conviction that the nominee is a worthy candidate.

## **6. Nomination for Saoi:**

It was reported that a nomination had been received for Camille Souter to be appointed to the honor of Saoi. It was reported by the Registrar that the Camille had accepted the nomination. The Toscaireacht agreed that the nomination by 15 members had occurred according to rule and that the nomination should proceed to a vote. The Chair noted that he wished to add his support to this nomination.

It was decided at this point to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene at some stage in mid January to review to resubmitted nominations.