

Minutes

Toscaireacht Meeting

1030pm – 1130pm 28 October 2022

Via Zoom

Present

Gerry Smyth, Anne Haverty, Cathy Carman, Vivienne Dick, Enda Wyley, Anne Tallentire, Theo Dorgan

Apologies Eamon Colman, Michael Holohan, Grainne Mulvey

Minutes and Matters Arising

Anne Haverty proposed the minutes of 22 Sep meeting and Enda Wyley seconded. No matters arising.

General Assembly

Previous Minutes

The draft minutes of the 40th Assembly had been circulated and were approved for circulation to all members along with the Agenda for the 41st Assembly.

Motions

All motions submitted were discussed and passed.

Motion proposed by Hugh Maxton, seconded by Anne Haverty

‘That this Assembly deplores, in the strongest terms, the recent violent and public assault on the novelist Salman Rushdie in New York State and urges other Irish arts organisations to follow suit. In doing so, we pay homage to our Toscaireacht's prompt condemnation in 1989 of the fatwah issued against his life’.

Motion proposed by Mary O'Donnell, seconded by Geraldine O'Reilly

‘Aosdána has reached a point in its existence at which the ceiling of 250 members is not adequate. Since its introduction and development, the number of artists of achievement in all disciplines has increased, largely due to nurturing and positive forms of arts education, facilities, introductions and professional apprenticeships to creative practice. Surely the time has arrived in which the Arts Council and we in Aosdána should welcome a gradual increase in our membership to 300, in recognition of the benefit that an increased presence would bring both to our affiliation and to Irish society in general’.

Motion proposed by Theo Dorgan, seconded by Enda Wyley

'Proposed that Aosdána adopt the following statement of values

WHEREAS Aosdána is an independent affiliation of artists that, when places become available, elects to its membership, by peer selection, artists who have by the quality of their work made a significant contribution to their art form

AND WHEREAS Members nominating and seconding candidates for election to the honour of membership do so free from constraint and in accordance with their own independent best judgement

WE STATE AND CONFIRM That members have made, make and will continue to make every effort to inform themselves fully when identifying suitably qualified artists deserving of the honour.

WE FURTHER STATE Our unswerving commitment to undertaking that duty in a spirit of principled commitment to demonstrable equity, informed by a lively and inquiring sense of new and emerging art forms, an awareness of inherited historical imbalances in the representation of women artists and embracing the obligation to keep actively in mind how questions of class, gender, ability/disability, and ethnicity, can act to obscure significant achievements by individual artist'.

Motion proposed by Gerard Smyth, seconded by Michael Holohan

'That short quotations from the person being nominated are permitted in letters of nomination from the proposer and seconder, which may include quotations from the nominee's writings, extracts from artist's statements and such like. Quotations from third parties, whatever the provenance, shall continue to be disallowed.

Motion proposed by Michael Holohan, seconded by Imogen Stuart

'That 'The Cross of Muiredach' and 'The West High Cross' at the monastic site of Monasterboice, Co. Louth, regarded as the greatest scriptural High Crosses in Europe and on an artistic par with 'The Book of Kells', be immediately restored by The Irish Government to the Tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. And also; that due to 'acid rain' and other forms of aerial pollution, that plans for the preservation of the crosses be put in place (similar to those works already carried out in Kells, Moone and Clonmacnoise).'

Draft Agenda

The draft Agenda of the General Assembly as circulated by the Registrar was discussed. The Registrar outlined the logistics for the day as arranged with UCD in relation to parking, lunch, signage etc

It was outlined that an emergency motion can be put forward on the day as long as there are 7 assenters.

It was also outlined that a Handbook should retain all outcomes from motions and be recorded.

It was suggested that all new members since 2019 be invited to stand and be welcomed.

It was suggested that all members who have passed away since the last General Assembly be represented with a photograph.

It was outlined that the Toscaireacht's report would include the proceedings of the working group. The Registrar will liaise with the Chair to ensure she has minutes of all meetings for this. The report would be circulated to the Toscaireacht members prior to the Assembly.

It was outlined that if there is a draw for the one place available that a postal vote would have to take place after the Assembly.

It was outlined by Theo Dorgan that he proposed to put forward a motion at the General Assembly on quotas with a view to reintroducing quotas at the General Assembly. It was decided to introduce this motion after the election takes place at the General Assembly.

Publication Launch

Kevin Rafter Chair is unable to launch the publication and Council Member Mark O Kelly will launch it in his absence. Mark Duncan, Author, will be invited to speak also.

Anne Haverty has organised a eulogy to Anthony Cronin at the launch of the Aosdána publication. It was thought that this was the best place for a eulogy and the Registrar outlined that she would follow up in relation to it.

Ends