

# Minutes

11am – 130pm 7 September 2023

## Meeting of Aosdána Toscaireacht

### Present

Gerry Smyth, Anne Haverty, Cathy Carman, Vivienne Dick, Michael Holohan, Theo Dorgan Chair, Mary O Donnell, Vivienne Dick, Anne Tallentire, Grainne Mulvey, Enda Wyley

**Apologies** There were no apologies

### Minutes and Matters Arising

The Registrar outlined that the 'About' section of the web site will be updated this week with a Summary from Mark Duncan. The Publication should be distributed to Irish Embassies overseas by way of a diplomatic bag. The Registrar will look into this. It was suggested that the Registrar contact Sheila Maguire in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Embassies in Ireland should also receive a copy. The Registrar updated that the Department has received copies. The Registrar updated that the detail about Council members rotating had been emailed on to all. The Registrar also clarified that any member wishing to update a biography on the web site should contact Aidan White who will do this. A reminder will be sent to members. The Cnuas should be listed as a Cnuas payment and not a Cnuas bursary on the Aosdána web site. The Minutes of the 14 June meeting were approved.

### Discipline Ballot Count

Enda Wyley will do the discipline ballot count with the Registrar on 18 September. The Registrar will send a memo to the members reminding them of the date and will include detail on updating members biogs on the web site.

### Aosdána Open Forum

There was very positive feedback from members on this proposal with the following themes coming through.

- To discuss future of Aosdána
- To meet members
- To engage more as members
- To raise public profile of Aosdána
- To see members work
- To survey our diversity
- To be able to contribute in a respectful environment

The Toscaireacht spoke about their ambitions for the day and highlighted the following as important.

- To look at how Aosdána is an honour and the importance of peer election
- To look at the election mechanism at the General Assembly and the quota system
- To look at the disciplines
- For it to be a social event as well as informative.
- To ask members for their input so that they participate fully and attendance is high.
- To email members and ask if any do need accommodation in the event that this can be covered by friends in Dublin.

### **General Assembly 2023**

The Registrar is in touch with the OPW on securing Dublin Castle early March 2024 with a request in for 5 March 2024.

### **Arts Council Aosdána Working Group**

Theo Dorgan and Gerry Smyth will meet with Maureen Kennelly, Director and Karen Hennessy, Registrar after the Toscaireacht meeting and will talk about the working group as well as catch up.

### **Aosdána Handbook – working group**

A working group was established consisting of Gerry Smyth and Michael Holohan. The Registrar had gathered many documents on this and sent these on some time ago. The Registrar will check again what documents the working group has and what else might be need. The working group intend to show the Registrar what they have gathered once they have gone through all the documents. This work is ongoing.

### **AOB**

The tender for the study of international comparisons to Aosdána will issue shortly. The Toscaireacht asked to see the scope contained within the tender. The Registrar will send that on.

The Registrar was asked about the Aosdána pin. The Registrar has a photo of one from member Adrian Kenny and the name of the jeweller, ESL Jeweller. The Registrar will try and find out more.

### **Follow on**

- Fill in 'About' section on Aosdána web site
- Carry out discipline ballot vote.
- Follow up with distribution of Publication to Embassies in Ireland and overseas.
- Put together draft outlines for the Open Forum day and run by the Toscaireacht.
- Email members with their thoughts on the day.
- Send on scope of study for International Comparisons to Aosdána.
- To look into Aosdána pin