

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 14TH FEBRUARY 1989

1. PRESENT

Rev T Scully, Rev G Stack, Mrs M Allen, Mrs U Cooper, Mrs M Fitzsimons, Miss M Kenny, A Coyle, Mr T Mangan, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O Flynn.

APOLOGIES: T Dunne, Mr J Myers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev. D Cormican, P Murphy.

In the absence of the Chairman, T Mangan presided and welcomed all members.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted on a proposal by Mrs U Cooper, seconded by Miss M Kenny.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The letter to Miss K Fitzsimons has not yet been sent but it will be done this week.

4 WELFARE REPORT

In his report Paul Murphy said for the first time food was the top priority for clients. This is one result of the slow-down of DSS payment of benefits. The demands for help during January was about the same as in January 1988 but pressure on staff was greater because they were now one less than in January 1988. The Welfare staff are now working on the Annual Report. Paul is anxious to keep it as brief as possible. He will get 1,000 copies printed.

The Welfare Advisory Committee met on 30th January. He reported to them the increased pressure on staff and hoped for the appointment of a new member with management skills. Paul would like to have regular meetings with members of the WAC to discuss management problems.

Fr Scully confirmed Paul's report and suggested that the new member of staff would also do research.

5. FINANCE REPORT

In the absence of P Keegan the report was given by Fr Scully who quoted some figures from the draft accounts for the year 1988.

Bar sales showed an increase of 5.5% on 1987

Catering sales showed an increase of 18% over 1987

Gross profit in each department was 49%. The total of donations for the year was good. The 12 monthly car draw showed a profit of £30,682.00

The Festival Car Raffle showed a profit of £10,412.00

The profit on the Albert Hall Concert was £5,649.00.

Wages and Welfare disbursements showed a big increase.

6 HOSTELS REPORT

CONWAY HOUSE

The hostel is full and much greater demands for help are being experienced since the beginning of the year. Food is supplied to many non-resident needy, many of whom are allowed to use the bathroom facilities. Under 18's are a big problem. The new Housing Act which was scheduled to come into operation on 12th April but which has now been deferred will if enforced cause a complete upheaval for hostels, many of which will be forced to close down.

The OAP hostel is due to open in April. The meeting commended Fr Ryan for the fantastic job he is doing under very difficult circumstances. "Nobody else could do it."

ST LOUISE

The situation in St Louise's is very much better. The girls look after themselves.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) Management

The new Manager is taking up duty on 20th February. He is well qualified for the position but must be given full support. He will have complete charge and will be answerable to the Executive Committee. Complaints must be directed to the Director/ Executive Committee. Bookings have improved quite a bit.

(b) Festival

It is hoped that the next Festival will take place on Sunday 2nd July.

(c) Adjacent Land

No further development.

(d) Wembley Concert

The show was good but the attendance was very disappointing. The enforced change of date did not help. It was felt that the artists were not sufficiently well known and the bill should have been broadened. It was also suggested that Travel agents, carriers, construction industry etc should have been roped in to sell tickets.

Thanks were expressed to Seamus Troy, Dermot Hogan and Frank Ahern for their efforts. It was suggested that another concert be arranged for October but to ensure it is a success "we must get our act together and get sales locations in the high streets."

(e) Fund Raising

Fund raising is still very important and a decent fund raising Committee must be organised. This important function must not be left to the few. People who are prepared to commit themselves must be recruited now and brought together. Mrs

Cooper and Mrs Allen have undertaken to make soundings and report back.

(g) Bar Licences

The new licence holders will be T Dunne and J Myers. Court approval was due to be sought today but our application was deferred to 21st March because our solicitor was unwell. The 'travellers' have moved from the area to the relief of local residents who are holding a meeting on Monday next to review the situation. Members strongly advised that the 'travellers' wedding booked for April should be cancelled because of the very strong likelihood that serious damage to the property etc. would result. Members also felt that security needs to be tightened up very much.

(g) Letters of complaint were received from the Galway Association regarding some poor service at a recent function and also regarding problems caused by 'travellers' frequenting the Centre. The officers of the association have been invited to a meeting to discuss the problems.

B SOCIAL CLUB

Chairman's report.

A Coyle reported that the year has started well. Cover charge for weekend socials has been increased to £1.50. Sunday morning music has been cancelled. He would like to see it replaced by a Comhaltas type session. A major function has been organised for the McNamara Hall on 4th March. Music will be provided by Pat Shine and Frankie McBride. The club Committee would like a meeting with the Administrative Committee. He complained that cleaning of tables was slipshod, hand driers in toilets not working, the hall not clean on Sunday mornings, also that some members were causing problems.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Fr Stack informed the meeting that he visited His Eminence Cardinal Hume and discussed with him the proposals for premises for the Emigrant Chaplains. Cardinal Hume is writing to Bishop Casey on the matter.

(b) Day Care Centre

The Centre is operating very successfully under the management of Mrs Una Cooper. Daily attendance averages 37 many of whom now stay on into the afternoon. Entertainments including darts, dominoes, bingo and pool help to create a pleasant atmosphere. Classes (including keep fit) are due to start in two weeks time. Thanks and appreciation to Mrs Cooper were expressed.

NEXT MEETING- 14TH MARCH 1989 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. S. B. →
14.3.89.