

LONDON IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

11th September, 1990

1. Present: T. Dunne, Chairman; Rev. Fr. T. Scully, OMI; Mary Mc Cormack; C. O'Connell; U. Cooper; J. Myers: T. Mangan; Peter O'Dwyer; Maura Fitzsimmons.

In attendance: Paul Murphy, Co-Ordinator, Community Services

Apologies: Mary Allen; Jim Kirby; John Walsh.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated, were taken as read; adopted on the proposal of Jim Myers, seconded by Fr. Scully.
3. Matters Arising: Contained in Agenda.

4. Welfare Report: Presented by Paul Murphy; Copies circulated with 1990 Statistics Comparison Chart. Overall August busy, decrease probably due to lack of work available. Current clients involve considerable work-load; some people returning home. 138 students only, to date. Dole queues increase in Ireland. Overall numbers down for ½ year; new total 77% of 1989.

Chairman asked Paul re: phone enquiries - inclusion in statistics important. Paul agreed to include phone figures in October. He considered that current staffing - 3 Social Advice Workers + Paul - is only adequate in the light of the considerable numbers of ill-equipped, poor and homeless clients calling to seek help.

Geraldine Coyle, resigning to do a course in Equality Studies leaves this week.

Ken Hogan, Seminarian left in August; Chairman asked whether a letter of appreciation should be sent to his Superior, Fr. Hogan. This was agreed; Fr. Scully - action.

Meetings and Outreach-Work continuing - very time consuming and goes on in the evenings. Council Meetings - Camden; Paul has attended Camden Race Committee but as a paid member of Community Services he cannot be co-opted. Chairman asked for Volunteer from Management to attend every two months - consider and then put name forward for October meeting.

5. Hostels Report: Presented by Fr. Scully. Hostels full, less callers, less busy. Smaller construction companies not employing staff; A considerable number of people requesting to return home.

Sr. Brenda, St. Louise's Hostel, leaving/transferred to take charge of Retreat House; Sr. Gertrude replacing her.

Fr. Ryan, Conway House, is being replaced by Fr. Pat Carolan; Mass and Presentation at 7.00pm, Irish Centre on Wednesday 12th.

6. Directors Report: Presented by Fr. Scully. Touche Ross had sent Accounts to Charity Commission for approval - no report to date.

Licence application - hearing on October 15th; There are a number of objections, mainly noise at weekends, vacating halls.

As a point of interest, Fr. Scully mentioned that a lorry was loading noisily at 2.00am, along the road, not Irish Centre which had been closed since 12.00 midnight.

Tenants Association and Neighbourhood, Camden had been written to by Chairman requesting a meeting. One complaint at the previous 'fracas' meeting was lack of communication. Irish Centre Management now seeking to meet them for discussion. There is a new management structure and we would like to show what has been accomplished - noise reduction and cost involved in so doing - accoustic door being installed in Mc Namara Hall side; It was measured and is being made by experts.

Fr. Scully had a meeting with the District Environmental Officer; a list of work done and work in hand was presented, and he felt that efforts are being made to resolve problems. Architect has been requested to draw up plans for Foyer (lobby), to give extra control; It is important - legal section - that all parties, i.e. fire officers, E.H.A., etc. are in unison for a successful outcome.



Unhappiness with our Solicitors expressed; Chairman has written to Mr. Roberts, Senior Partner at Prince Evans requesting that a meeting be arranged to rectify matters.

Furnace whistling noise still exists on the roof and offending furnace has been switched off. Extract air conditioner in Mc Namara Hall noisy. Chairman stated we can only listen to the advice of decibal experts and seek solutions to problem. Bands sound equipment noisy - plugs have been removed but they provide their own extension leads.

Insurance claim - negotiations on-going, £70,000 received. Negotiations on-going for further remuneration. Chairman had written to Chairman and Chief Executive of Company and is awaiting reply.

Josephine Vaughan has completed Research Programme - being checked by producers of Annual Report. Aer Lingus has financed and may arrange launch in Dublin.

Conditions and directions for hiring halls to be discussed with Finance Committee; Conditions - responsibility of hirers and management. Music loudness - major concern. Conditions as agreed with Finance and Management Committees, will be attached to each application being sent out. Efforts have to be made to avoid more drastic action. Co-operation of responsible hirers important. The Chairman said it is a residential area and we must be positive in our actions to monitor and control same. Jim Myers stated that halls should be vacated within a reasonable time from end of function. This is considered difficult but will be included in Conditions Policy. T. Mangan commented that Management members (Committee) at weekends, are in the minority. Jim Myers and he are the only members who visit the Irish Centre in an observational capacity.

Procedural Controls: Finance and Management involved in expenditure; Capital expenditure control; Certification of Invoices by Director; Amount expended - limited.

7. Social Club Report: Presented by M. Kenny. A letter of request for representative from Management Committee to attend next meeting on 4th October at 8.00pm - C. O'Connell and Una Cooper volunteered. T. Mangan asked whether the Chair of the Social Club could be involved with Administrative Committee meeting - it was noted that two members are already on Committee.

Complaints re: bar prices and attitude of Bar Manager - card game had been interrupted and players not handled diplomatically. Chairman arranging a meeting to sort out existing problems. Tommy with Fr. Scully said that the card game runs very late. Members feel that if clients are handled properly they are reasonable.

Licencing times rules, etc. causing confusion. Fr. Scully stated that it is a Pub Licence in smaller halls - not black and white - due to circumstances.

Irish Post advertising not satisfactory - high weekly costs; some weeks exclusion script being given to Mary Kenny.

8. Any Other Business: C. O'Connell notified lack of staff on 19th August - both Managers were off; Senior Barman went off sick; Maeve - holder of keys entirely alone. Fr. Scully said that this matter had already been dealt with. Chris complained about Sunday lunch - Chef was off sick; Pat O'Dwyer had to do the cooking. Tommy Dunne had lunch at Irish Centre that particular day and felt that in the extreme situation remaining staff had done a good job.

T. Mangan asked how many members had been co-opted on to Administrative Committee since A.G.M. - only Peter O'Dwyer. He queried elected member, Mary Mc Cormack; he understood it was Mary Mc Cormack - Chairman will refer to minutes but members in attendance said that it was Mary Mc Cormack.

Peter O'Dwyer asked by Chairman whether he wished to contribute - Peter's only request was for support at forthcoming Ball; Tickets available. He had just returned from Ireland and felt attendance would be down this year but looked forward to a successful night.

9. Date of next meeting: 9th October, 1990.

