

Minutes of an Administrative Meeting held on December 11th. 1990.

Present. J. Myers, V/Chairman, Fr. T. Scully, O.M.I. M. McCormack, M. Allen, E. McCormack, M. Kenny, M. Fitzsimons.

Apologies. Mons. G. Stack., T. Dunne, C. O'Connell, T. Mangan, J. Kirby, J. Walsh, Fr. O'Donohue.

In attendance. P. Murphy.

Minutes of the November meeting having been circulated were taken as read. Adopted on the proposal of Mary Allen, seconded by Mary McCormack.

Matters arising. Jim Myers stated that Residents Association members though aware of date of Admin Committee meeting would need a monthly reminder if they wished to attend.

E McCormack stated that problems seem to continue in the Centre, he realises there is an on going problem with management. Bars are empty functions have been cancelled. No progress business wise is very obvious. A more positive management structure is needed.

J. Myers in reply said he appreciated the need for concern. An advert had been placed for an administrative assistant to work with Paddy Keegan. Eddie McCormack suggested the appointment of an overall Director liaising with the Spiritual Director as the 1990's will be difficult and expensive.

5/ Welfare Report. Presented by Paul Murphy. Report Circulated. Dec. '90 busy, like Dec. '87. Some new comers from Ireland. Phone figures very high over 500. Insufficient time to compile statistics due to staff commitments, meetings etc. Paul felt it is time to reflect on the level of staffing. Recommendation from the working party, enable us to use a common structure. Information Network- He had attended an exhibition at Olympia. Dr Peter McKenna from D.C.U. had advised on computerisation. Tel 0001-37007 ext 560221.

Youth information service linking in. Fr Scully commented that he had various enquiries from professionals, exorbitant cost.

Jim Kirby had discussed unreasonable costs with Fr. Scully. Reported that equipment from Dr McKenna £299- £149- £40 to link up British Telecom. 20p use .012 per 2 secs transfer 5-10 secs.

Fr Scully has ordered computer £1,099, being installed January 1991 for overall use Irish Centre and Community Services Dept.

Jim Myers applauded Fr Scully for his efforts and stated that a newly appointed assistant would be qualified in computer use. Financial system would be computerised. The expert will advise.

Community Services Dept closing Friday Dec. 21st until Wednesday Jan. 2nd. 1991. Staff taking four days Annual Leave. It was felt this would create a burden on Reception. Paul commented this was agreed by the Welfare Advisory Committee some considerable time ago. Administrative Committee not notified. Paul extended Christmas wishes with very special regards to Fr Scully, wishing him every happiness in his new post at Eastwood.

4/ Finance Report. Presented by Fr Scully. Copies Circulated. Bar sales down. Management Committee should not be complacent. Fr Scully stated that price increase in July was excessive, caused bad feelings. Agreed decision at Management Committee was not implemented.

5p drinks spirits no increase. Increased overall in his absence.

Jim Myers agreed this caused ill feeling and loss of valued customers. Increase is according to increase advice from brewers. Eddie McCormack queried whether there is a standing policy. Jim Myers replied none.

M. Allen expressing concern said that the management committee should be aware of any erratic alteration of decisions taken at this level. Fr Scully said it will take a long long time to recover goodwill. Eddie McCormack commenting that an experienced Bar Manager and Catering Manager had been appointed but it was obvious that communications had broken down. Tighter Management control is essential. An overall Manager liaising with the Director. Urgent steps re Bar Manager need to be taken. Mary Allen asked what steps should be taken. It was agreed that Mr Killeen was used to Club Management and lacked diplomacy in current situation. It was agreed to refer to T. Dunne for action, as he was appointed on high recommendation. Paddy Keegan is very unhappy with situation as several complaints indicate Mr Killeen's unsuitability. Centre closing before closing time. Managers disinterested in day to day important issues. Customers lost due to his attitude. 300 people had attended Irish Centre on Sunday no bar facilities. Beer delivery referred to Mary Kenny to check this is not acceptable. T. Dunne aware of the situation. A memo has been written by Fr Scully requesting figures, urgent action needed.

6/ Hostels Report. Hostels full. Growing pains in transition of Directors. New Management different. Good wishes extended to Fr. Ryan.


7/ Directors Report. John Coote dealing with Insurance Claim, no progress, no co-operation from Police, Fire Officers, Arbitration suggested. Representative coming for discussion on December 17th. Computer discussion difficult very little achievement since professional advice sought. Now agreed to accept Dr McKenna's advice. Computer being installed January 1991. Accounts on computer, being farmed out for three months to initiate it. An Administrative Assistant with computer knowledge being sought, by March 1991. Should be on Irish Centre Computer, On Fr Scully's recommendation Module and principle set up releasing Paddy Keegan, who suggests retaining accounts on a practical basis and on the advice of the Auditors extending the Financial year to March 31st. 1991. Certificate of Incorporation, change of name. Copy handed to Eddie McCormack, delay in receipt of same Eddie asked whether outstanding bills to Solicitors have been credited. Fr Scully replied that a meeting had been arranged for January 15th. 1991. There are a number of outstanding bills, Eddie considers a considerable wastage. He asked Fr Scully whether he could make any solid recommendation to his successor. Fr Scully said he had lost complete confidence in Professionals e.g. Recreation Room Conway House, had cost £35,500 in Professional fees, Day Care Centre Professional fees £41,000. He did not get adequate support, despite his efforts over the years. Jim Myers said the committee were very saddened and upset as we had developed a special bond with Fr Scully, whose ministry at the Irish Centre was so well respected. Fr Scully said team work between Bar and Catering Managers needed. The previous Manageress had done both their jobs very satisfactorily stated Fr Scully. Jim Myers said that Fr Scully's achievements - New Bar, Refurbished areas were appreciated, and his going was most regrettable. Eddie McCormack agreed that we all had a special bond with Fr. Scully. It is sad lack of support from Trustees, changes needed, strong active Trustees needed who should meet once a month at least. Some input from them important for survival. The Directors task is very difficult, considerable stress, a major undertaking. An internal committee should be taking decisions. Competition fierce, needs control. Fr Scully does not wish to interfere when he leaves but will always be available if advice sought.

He realises that good waitresses and bar staff have been lost. Bar tills were scheduled to be computerised July 1990, following a survey by Fr. Dennis Cormican and John Coote. Money was allocated for installation, in his absence glass washers were installed. Prices differ in internal bars causing complaints and dissatisfaction and subsequent loss of business.

8/ Social Club Report. Prices and origin of beer causing concern. Mary Kenny reported a leak, notified to her by Mr Willeen, no action taken by him. Water had come through ceiling to Chapel area. Bazaar had raised £705.00. to date aim £2,000.00. Thanks extended to Mary for her efforts. Social Club Buffet Thursday.

9/ Any other Business. Unanimous gratitude and good wishes extended to Fr. Scully. He will attend the Stewards Buffet on January 18th. 1991. Federation Irish Societies Annual Dinner takes place in the Mc Namara Hall January 19th. 1991. Tickets £25.00 each.

Date of next meeting January 8th. 1991.


8/1/91