

LONDON IRISH CENTRE LIMITED

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 10TH MARCH, 1992

Present:

Jim Myers, V.C.; Fr. Denis Cormican, O.M.I.; Monseignor G. Stack; M. Allen; M. Fitzsimons; M. Kenny; U. Cooper; T. Mangan; M. O'Boyle

In Attendance:

Mrs. Hancock - Residents Association; P. Murphy

Apologies:

M. Mc Cormack; E. Mc Cormack; T. Dunne; J. Kirby; D. Curley

Residents Association:

Mrs. Hancock, referring to an episode of band noise at 1.30am said this had already been discussed. She had no further comments apart from satisfaction on behalf of residents for co-operation.

J. Myers assured Mrs. Hancock that bands are monitored - with a hope of maintaining good relationship.

Minutes of previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read, adopted on the proposal of M. Allen, seconded by U. Cooper.

Matters Arising:

a) T. Mangan, referring to redundancy of a member of the Catering Staff stated that action by Finance Committee was contrary to terms of existing Constitution - "Letter should have come from Secretary of Administrative Committee". Fr. Cormican said this was an important comment for future reference, but since the Irish Centre is now a Limited Company a co-decision of Directors of said Limited Company. T. Mangan expressed a grievance re: attitude of Chairman and Director when he contacted them by phone. J. Myers said Directors of Irish Centre have personal responsibility and liability. Referring to previous minutes - a member supporting E. Killeen - J. Myers said during Mr. Killeen's employment there was a growing loss of Bar custom, in consequence there was no alternative but to terminate employment.

In order to deal with Mr. Mangan's continuing dissatisfaction - item deferred to accommodate Welfare Report.

Welfare Report:

Presented by Paul Murphy - Monthly Report circulated. Increase in all categories. More detailed statistics will be available at the end of the year. Annual Report being completed - drafts being revised and linked together - Report will be available at the end of April. Arrangements have been made for an Advice Worker to attend Day Centre every two weeks, already producing beneficial results. Some work resulting from Camden Social Workers strike - being handled. Camden relying of Health Service and the Voluntary Sector to deal with problems.

Chairman expressed thanks to Paul - extending to his staff.

Matters Arising continued:

J. Myers - A vital point re: operation of the Company - Liability is "down on the ground". Directors are personally responsible and current situation is causing serious concern.

Fr. Cormican said he had a visit from the Oblate Provincial and Treasurer who gave constructive advice. Directors being held responsible because of the urgency. Finance sub-Committee had to make decisions - decisions reported to Administrative Committee. Finance sub-Committee set up with the approval of Administrative Committee.

T. Mangan stated "without collateral no come back" - Fr. Cormican's statement untrue. According to Constitution, decision should have been referred to Administrative Committee

prior to action.

J. Myers stated everyone aware of the Limited Company. Legal advice taken - situation serious, urgent action the only solution.

Mgr. Stack said the Oblates have cushioned the Irish Centre. Since a Limited Company the Oblates cannot and should not be liable for a Trading Company - Directors responsible J. Myers regretted need for argument by T. Mangan. Mgr. Stack said change was forced upon us. We live in a different age. Trading Company and Charities Act independent to Irish Centre although subscribing to it. No way can a religious organisation be responsible.

Fr. Cormican said the Constitution needs to be re-drafted - legal advice has been sought in this respect. Changes will have to be looked at. Constitution as it stands cannot applied to current situation.

Mgr. said - Charity Commissioners have forced change, irrespective of Constitution. Irish Centre Charity has no executive power over Limited Company. Cannot have Charity and Trading Company operating.

J. Myers said if increasing deficit, no alternative but "close the doors". Finance Board debt mounting, can make decisions on behalf of the Company, otherwise trading illegally.

Catering Manager's notice withdrawn. Fr. Cormican said there is a vague possibility we may not have presented his redundancy package correctly. According to law incoming traders are obliged to retain staff. A deputation who had booked functions were unhappy - in consequence Catering Manager re-instated.

Hostels Report:

Conway House over-full. St. Louise almost full. Some non-Irish, decrease in Irish girls looking for work in London. Development Kentish Town, a hold-up due to right of way. Objection has to go to Council hearing, 26th March. An Caislean full.

T. Mangan queried referrals to Hostels - referrals from Hostels - not arriving and vice versa from Irish Centre Hostels.

Finance Report:

J. Reynolds not in attendance. Fr. Cormican reported that Charity Finances are keeping above board - a struggle from month to month. A possibility that DION Grant may be paid in June. Limited Company - February good. Cash flow positive, end of March picture may be better than anticipated. M. O'Boyle queried any trends why improvement. Fr. Cormican said turn-over higher in February, profit margin higher.

Directors Report:

Fr. Cormican said a Catering Company would be coming in to operate Bars and Catering. One Company interested. A second Company awaiting. A lot of work done by two volunteers - figures and what financial arrangements we would make. He is very happy with work done. Results of inventory fixtures and furnishings value. A further Advisor assessing figures on our behalf. All professional advice free. Considerable time devoted, then real negotiations when all information in hand. Operation needed as quickly as possible, but in the interest of Irish Centre tremendous potential if handled properly. Fr. Cormican asked Committee to be clear with regards to situation - give permission to full right to proceed. Irish Centre Limited make the decision and then inform Admin. Committee of any decision taken. Agreed unanimously - action in this respect considered necessary.

Social Club Report:

Concern expressed by Social Club Members re: probable changes if a 'take-over'. Fr. Cormican said a new operator coming in an established establishment changes will be gradual. Social Club Secure. Operators will work under Irish Centre terms. Primary purpose of operators will be to create new business. Day Care Centre food subsidised by Irish Centre Charity.

Any Other Business:

None. There being no further business relevant the meeting closed at 10.15pm

Date of next meeting - 14th April, 1992