

LONDON IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING
HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 1992.

PRESENT: J. Myers, Acting Chairman, M. Allen, Fr. Cormican, E. McCormack, M. Kenny, J. Kirby, Mon. Stack, U. Cooper and M. Fitzsimmons.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Reynolds.

- (1) Residents Association: Mrs Hancock. As already reported previous meeting - disturbance at Travellers Wedding - dealt with - no new problems.

Fr. Cormican stated that he had been informed June Swan, had not received an invitation to Mayor's Banquet - Invitation had been delivered by B. Murphy, personally ten days prior to event. Information being given by Mrs. Hancock to this effect.

- (2) Apologies: T Dunne, Chairman, Declan Curley, M. McCormack.

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

- (3) Matters arising: None.

- (4) Welfare Report None. Paul Murphy not in attendance.

- (5) Hostels Report: Presented by Fr. Cormican. Quex Road busy. Vacancies in Conway House. Recent decrease An Caislean. A Hostel Committee member, E. Breslin R.I.P. Vacancy already filled.

Saint Louise, Medway Street - No Irish girls, International gathering, foreign students, vacancies situation may cause concern. Building Kentish Town progressing.

- (6) Finance Report: Presented by J. Reynolds, copies monthly Balance Sheet were circulated, loss for April £750. Meals costed for Day Care and staff. Turn over down 25%, not achieving target. Bar sales down.

- (7) Directors Report: Fr. Cormican expressed concern and extended goodwill to T. Dunne, Chairman, who had been referred for assessment - second opinion - to a consultant at King's College Hospital.

Talks in hand for outside Company Saxon Inns, to take over Catering and Bar and to draw up mutual agreement - Meeting (preliminary) already held with representatives, Tony Tomlinson, Forte, Peter Rossiter, City Bank advisers.

Two Irish Solicitors drafted an agreement which was used as a working document at the meeting. Not yet complete. Proposed take over Bar and Catering operation. Concern expressed by Committee members re contents and outcome of Draft Agreement. It was agreed to call an E.G.M. as a matter of urgency. Fr. Cormican said it was a proposed to negotiate a 10 year Agreement, for review after 5 years. Concession fee (0%) based on 0% of turnover - 10% agreed. First month free charge, second 5%, third 7 1/2% and thereafter 10%. Saxon Inns responsible for Revenue related overheads, part of the deal to sell to Saxon Inns. All fixtures and fittings approximately £50,000 to be paid to Irish Centre Ltd, in equal instalments final payment March 1993. They will purchase all Bar and Kitchen stocks payable immediately. Full time and part time staff will automatically be transferred to Saxon Inns.

consultations with members needed.

Fr. Cormican confident concerning potential and profitability for both. Built into 10% concession fee, minimum annual payment £40,000.

M. Allen expressed concern re paintings and fittings etc, donated by Counties and individuals, she said an E.G.M. must be called to clarify such details.

J. Kirby:- Will bringing in Saxon Inns, protect the Irish J. Kirby queried Union problems, One member of staff Pat O' Dwyer - According to law Company changing hands - transfer agreement. Fr. Cormican - in reply said, we do not recognise "Union".

Meeting needed Advisors Irish Centre

and two representatives from Saxon Inns, a p.r. exercise

In fact we would advise we go forward in a business like Use of the building concessionary, Irish Counties, Committees etc. Saxon Inns happy to honour main concern, creating functions. J. Kirby said that Saxon Inns a Multinational Company, is a few years established, proposed arrangements, loose, and should be tied down legally. Nothing should interfere with the agreement locally. Operation of Irish Centre Ltd. will it remain Irish Centre? reply from Fr. Cormican, yes. Existing fixtures and fittings - how will this arrangement affect the situation queried by J. Kirby. Company's use of the Irish Centre will be clearly drawn up in a map, replied Fr. Cormican. Admin. Committee's future role if any, Fr. Cormican replied, the main purpose of the Irish Centre is to care for Irish people and provide funds for Welfare purposes. J. Kirby said, that their is a serious need to tie up legal aspects - Bounds of operation important - Company may encroach on certain situations. There are loose situations we expect the situation to be available to us as a Committee.

There is a need to draw bounds, not to be taken advantage of, this Company would probably be moving on. We need to establish ground rules. M. Allen in full support of Jim Kirby, said a water tight agreement needs to be drawn up. E. McCormack said - there will be major changes - there is a lot of pressure. An E.G.M. needed for discussion with Advisors and all relevant personnel. Fr. Cormican assured, there will be as much control as possible over the Irish Centre. The Solicitors drawing up an agreement acceptable to Irish Centre and Company involved.

Monseignor Stack said that the Irish Centre is under considerable pressures. Loose federation using the Centre. Users not aware or responsive to crises. Expression of Charitable Association. As a Charity "we make do". The Hall will always be there whether we use it or not, consultations with members needed.

Consultation with Management Committee Geographical, Moral, control who sets the business agenda? What are the priorities? does it wait for County decision, and put up with cancellations at short notice? Is business going to serve floating population?

J. Kirby:- Will bringing in Saxon Inns, protect the Irish ness? Identity must not be destroyed. Monseignor said there needs to be a coming together of business side partnership. Demands responsibility from users. E. McCormack - An open meeting needed Advisors Irish Centre and two representatives from Saxon Inns, a p.r. exercise in fact He would advise we go forward in a business like fashion for protection and goodwill.

Una Cooper queried the Day Care furnishings. paintings.

J. Kirby queried the legalities, liability etc. Fr. Cormican replying said there is a meeting with Irish Centre Solicitors. Robert Kerr and Fiona on Wednesday it will be made clear, the Charity owns the property. E. McCormack said that this point was raised at Finance. Legal Advisor - (Directors responsible). J. Kirby asked if Administrative Committee would be asked to sign. Assured by Director and Chairman they do not have any legal responsibilities. J. Kirby asked, What are the legal aspects? expressing worry. E. McCormack said Administrative Committee were voluntary and advisory - no legal responsibility. Point relevant to alleviate any personal worry. Management Committee do not manage. Executive Committee manage. Fr. Cormican, T. Dunne, J. Myers, M. Allen.

Monseignor said, responsible personnel are the Trustees, Directors, - Oblate community has subsidised and supported in full. This exercise has clarified where responsibility lies. Fr. Cormican said it was important to re-draft current constitution. J. Kirby expressed a nervousness of a Company taking over. Fr. Cormican in conjunction with Chairman said there is no legal obligation on current management - role is advisory, voluntary, supportive trying to enhance the Irish Centre. Monseignor said the Irish Centre is running at a loss "past the point of no return" in fact in crisis.

Meeting proposed. Would have to be orchestrated carefully - Agreed Thursday 21st May. 8p.m.


Joint Chairman: Fr. Cormican, J. Myers V.C., E. McCormack felt that Fr. Scully would have a lot to contribute. Fr. Cormican felt, Fr. Scully may not be willing to attend.

Notification: An Agenda to be sent out, Mary Allen, action.

8. Social Club Report A.G.M. 14th May. Small crowds attending event.
9. Any other business Federation of Irish Societies A.G.M. 6th June Scarborough. A member queried whether Federation were of any benefit to Irish Centre. Fr. Cormican said their, main benefit was participation in Community Care sub group.

There being no further business relevant, Chariman closed proceedings 10.20p.m.

Date of next meeting 9th June.

 9.6.92