

LONDON IRISH CENTRE

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on the 12th January, 1993.

PRESENT: M. Allen, Fr. Cormican, T. Mangan, J. Reynolds, M. Sills, T. McAssey, B. Shaw, S. Burke, U. Cooper, and E. McCormack.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Hancock,  
Residents Assoc., Nothing to report.

Meeting opened by Donie Egan, Chairman, rota for next meeting.

APOLOGIES: Declan Curley and Jim Kirby.

Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes had not been sent out to Committee, Secretary apologised for inadvertent omissions and asked that a minute Secretary be called for.

E. McCormack - minutes are all over the place. Matters arising from November meeting there was no mention of conversation re Paul Murphy. The Chairman asked if E. McCormack would like to repeat the point in question, E. McCormack said no but he would not be approving the minutes. Chairman - would he like to remind the meeting of his comments. E. McCormack couldn't recall all but effect was negative, characteristic of Paul Murphy's managing of the Welfare. Tribute had been paid to his work here, but it was not all pluses, it was widely agreed when he lead the discussion that there were negative aspects to his leadership of the Welfare Committee. Fr. Cormican, to get the wording right on that it was not his leadership of the Committee, it was as Co-ordinator of the Welfare Department. Chairman - There were negative aspects to his roll as co-ordinator which should be taken account of in any new appointment.

Amendments - Chairman I believe we got the amendment correct although they were not in the right order. Secretary was asked to add the amendments in the re-draft and bring back to committee for approval. Adoption of the minutes, subject to the amendments on record, proposed by M. Sills and seconded by Una Cooper.

Chairman asked if everyone had read minutes of the November meeting Sean Burke said he had no communication from the Committee since joining, Secretary said it was the practice of the Administrative Committee to post minutes but for people who use the Centre frequently minutes were left at reception. Chairman asked that minutes be available one week before meeting. Chairman any other matters arising from November meeting that needed to be raised. T. Mangan asked that the minutes for November be read. Minutes read by M Allen. Matters arising from November meeting. Chairman asked if there were any comments about Fr. Paul Byrne's address at the time it was decided we would look at the situation and this should be done in a matter of months.

Chairman asked Fr. Denis if there were any further developments. Fr. Cormican replied only that someone had tampered with the hall door and a window at the back had been broken. Chairman asked if we could put the role of the priest at the Centre on the next agenda, it was agreed. Fr. Cormican suggested that the receptionist from the Welfare should take the minutes at the meetings. This was felt to be unsatisfactory as complete confidence was needed. The Secretary had stated that she found it very difficult to take the minutes and record them verbatim and still take an active part in the proceedings.

B. Shaw - whoever takes the minutes should have them typed and they should not be altered in any way. Chairman complete confidentially has to be kept and we must be careful of whom we have to take the minutes.

#### FINANCE REPORT:

J. Reynolds handed out copies of accounts for the eight months for the Limited company and nine months for the Irish Centre Charity, questions were asked about the loss in bars J. Reynolds - it is very difficult to know in advance how many people will attend these functions so there has to be at least two persons in Bar. T Mangan questioned the £30.00 or £40.00 which was taken in the McNamara Bar and said the Douglas Hyde bar takes approximately £70 to £80 on a Friday and Saturday night. Chairman - what kind of functions would produce these kind of figures J. Reynolds - staff functions, they were not County Association. Chairman to Fr. Cormican, would there not be a manager supervising, Fr. said we had not had a Manager for at least six months. E. McCormack, who sanctioned the control and setting up of Bars, Fr. Cormican does but it is very hard to access numbers, at some re-unions you are told to expect a few hundred instead it turns out to be a small crowd. E. McCormack who supervises the Bars, Fr. Cormican I do - seven nights a week. E. McCormack who goes around checking Fr. Cormican - I do. E. McCormack we should close the Bars, we are the laughing stock of London. Asked about the procedure of money collection, Fr. C. said he and Maeve Heath did, and that Maeve checked the till rolls. J. Reynolds was to bank money next day.

The loss of £1,700 in November could be blamed on the deliveries, asked about who checked in the deliveries either Mary Kenny or Mary Todd, there being no other queries the Chairman thanked J. Reynolds. Chairman asked if we could leave item seven on the agenda and jump to item eleven.

Concessions:

Fr. Cormican said he was pleased we had gone to item eleven and he wished to apologise for his lack of communication with the Administrative Committee and went on to say that we have the final draft to day both sets of Solicitors had been dragging their feet on what he had said at previous meetings. The amendments to the original draft has been looked at and included in this agreement as he had stated at the November meeting he had asked for conclusion to be as fast as possible B. Shaw asked were we not to have had the draft in advance of the meeting so as we could read it Chairman had only got a copy of the draft on Friday, and spent three hours reading it and sending fax messages during Friday and Saturday. His understanding was that it was to be given to the Administrative Committee. Only for the six months work done we would not have ended up with this agreement, which is good. Amendments to the final draft were read out by the Chairman who was unable to assume responsibility for the whole Committee. Fr. Cormican stated when asked by the Chairman, he had signed the agreement that evening. S. Burke asked what were we doing here we might as well throw the draft in the bin.

T. Mangan asked why did he sign it? he should not have done so without the consent of the Administrative Committee. E. McCormack said that Fr. had taken it upon himself. Fr. Cormican said that all issues raised at the meeting were met with consideration in the documents. He was not ignoring the Committee, asked if Board meeting was held Fr. replied - No! I did it. E. McCormack Fr. had taken too much on his own shoulders and he was really running the Irish Centre. As late as Monday night he had pleaded with Fr. C. to leave it for at least six hours. Chairman said we would have given our okay! but now what? He spoke to Fr. Cormican on Friday and pleaded not to take this course of action without the approval of the Administrative Committee on 12th January 1993 and conveyed this request by faxed letter on the 8th January, 1993. Also asked for Administrative Committee to be given time to read over draft. B. Shaw asked if he had the approval of two Directors also why could he not wait? Fr. Cormican yes I got approval.

T. Mangan said we have wasted our time B. Shaw said no we have not wasted our time. E. McCormack - where was it signed and was there a press release. Fr. Cormican - No signed in the Solicitor's office. E. McCormack said it showed ultimate proof that Fr. Cormican wants to be the Managing Director of the Irish Centre. Fr. apologised to the Committee and said it was the sheer pressure at the Centre. B. Shaw refused to accept the apology. Chairman took issue with Fr. Cormican of accountability to the Administrative Committee. We are not a party to it and asked for a resolution, that the Director of the Irish Centre Limited be held accountable and obtain written consent from the Administrative Committee before entering any amendments to the concession agreement, Proposed by B. Shaw and seconded by T. Mangan. E. McCormack - John Coote should be sitting on the Administrative Committee and should be seen more often in the Irish Centre Director appointed John Coote to Irish Centre Limited and was introduced by the late Tommy Dunne R.I.P. The matter of appointing the Directors was discussed, on advice from E. McCormack is respect of potential insolvency this was to be left to the next meeting.

Fr. Cormican said that he would like us to nominate someone here to-night as Chairman. (See minute below)

On the proposal of T. Mangan Fergal Collins was co-opted on to the Administrative Committee, B. Shaw seconded.

E. McCormack said he was very concerned about the financial aspect of Saxon Inns. Licence held by both names of Licensee will have to be changed. Saxon Inns should be advised who the Directors are. B. Shaw said she was very sad to see Saxon Inns coming to take over the Centre. Fr. Cormican, a Catering Manager was coming in and stocktaking was taking place the following morning. The Chairman at this point returned to item seven on the agenda.

#### Welfare Co-Ordinator:

Fr. Cormican said there had been 30 applicants twelve responses on four out of all were interviewed. One male applicant returning to-morrow for further interview. He had experience working and leading a team, a sociologist and was very interested in getting into this type of work. The Receptionist Maureen Rynne had given birth to a baby girl, a new girl has started on reception. It had been a quiet December but very busy in the last day or two.

Fr. Cormican was told that he had carried out interview without the consent of the Administrative Committee. It was decided by Committee to defer the appointment. It was agreed that E. McCormack and Una Cooper should interview the applicant on the 21st January, Fr. said he would be on holiday at that time.

Mass for the repose of the soul of our late Chairman Tommy Dunne R.I.P. will take place on Monday 15th February at 7.30p.m. A vote of sympathy was expressed to Joan and her sons. Fr. said a letter had been written to the Irish Post complaining of the lack of publicity accorded to Tommy.

The matter of the new Chairman was discussed. B. Shaw proposed we continue with rotating Chairman, this was seconded by T. Mangan. D. Egan would meet J. Kirby ahead of the next meeting to brief him before taking over as Chairman from that meeting.

Their being no further business, meeting ended.

Next meeting to be held on the 9th February.