

London Irish Centre

Administrative Committee Meeting

10th October 1995

Present D. Egan, A. Finan, Mgr. Stack, Rev. P. Carolan OMI, Rev. J. Kivlehan OMI, Director, Niamh O'Malley AIB, T. McAssey, M. Sills, J. Coote, J.J. O'Brien, M. Kenny, M. Fitzsimons

Apologies Rev. F. Phelan, M. Allen.

D. Egan Opening proceedings stated he would chair the meeting until a successor was elected as per item 1 agenda. He welcomed the new incoming members and was happy to welcome Mgr. Stack - following his busy year.

1. Item 4 Welfare Report presented by Christine Mohan

Copies circulated, contents detailed.

D. Egan said there seems to be considerable negative response from Camden.

Christine in reply said Welfare maintains a good relationship with SS Camden. A fair share of resources needed.

D. Egan queried relationship with local councillors. Christine -good relationship. Meetings held.

D. Egan: if there are problems to be addressed they should be aware.

J. Coote: queried official reason for rejection of mental health worker. This was challenged. No response £2,500 only.

Christine: a vacancy exists on WAC. Fergal Collins was representing Admin. Cttee.

D. Egan: asked who may be available. Appointment from Admin Cttee. Who is free?

Fr. Jerry compiling a staff handbook. Not yet ready for publication.

Mgr. Stack asked Christine if Welfare do networking - alcoholism, homelessness. Fr. Barry Carpenter, Copenhagen Street works in Camden, immersed in the Irish Scene, having access to echelons of power in Camden - Christine had not been aware of him or his work. Fr. Jerry had met him, he is totally focused in the De-tox centre day-to-day basis - has made good contacts around Covent Garden.

D. Egan: AGM had drawn attention to finance. Welfare's own deficit has to be met by fund-raising. Christine has not produced substantial funds - deficit of £2,000. Running costs of welfare. Deficit £12,000 - serious fund-raising needed - causing concern.

Chairman thanked Christine who left the meeting.

Fr. Jerry -circulated AGM Welfare Statement Segregated; stating a request ha been received for an increase in staffing level for the coming year -Fr. Jerry in reply, the same.

Reasons for fund-raising or lack of same. Applications unsatisfactory to Camden for grants. Whether Christine has the correct approach.

J. Coote said - it is essential that we have a feed back. Fr. Jerry said he will have the handbook ready for perusal and approval within a week.

D. Egan: WAC staff instigated, people on who do not understand the relationship with the Admin. - they should be appointed from the Admin.

Fr. Jerry: WAC not satisfactory, Staff thereon should not appear. D. Egan suggested co-options from the Admin.

Relationship with Welfare frayed - tensions exist. Fr. Jerry said that WAC is open-ended has an open brief and meetings end in frustration. Terms of reference needed.

2. Elections and Appointments

2.1 Officers

D. Egan been in chair for two years. It was difficult following on his predecessors who were retired and were devoted to the Irish Centre. Chairing monthly meetings was only one item, availability for other meetings difficult. He had pressing needs family and business and cannot fulfil the Chair's role adequately. He would want to be associated with Planning and Development and through various processes and would like to continue.

2.1.1 Chair: J. Coote proposed by M. Sills seconded by A. Finan. Declined but will continue to support.

M. Allen proposed by J. Coote seconded M. Kenny. Members noted Mary does not wish to take an officer's post but will continue to support the committee.

A Finan - proposed by M. Sills, seconded D. Egan initially indicated he could not give the necessary time.

T. McAssey proposed by J. Coote declined - would not be free to attend meetings.

Fr. Carolan stated someone needed who can chair meetings. No-one free, deep interest and knowledge essential.

M. Sills offered to support A. Finan if acceptable.

Fr., Jerry noted the past year had been difficult. D. Egan asked Austin to reconsider as he has the advantage of being in attendance at the meetings - His proposal. D. Egan seconded by J. Coote. Admin agreed on the understanding that there would be restrictions on his availability.

D. Egan congratulated Austin vacated chair in his favour. Members accepted limitations as imposed.

2.1.2 Vice chair: M. Sills proposed by A Finan, seconded by T. McAssey - accepted.

2.1.3 Hon. Sec. M. Fitzsimons proposed by M. ^{Sills}Allen seconded by A. Finan - accepted.

2.1.4 Hon Sec: Frs. Jerry, Patsy and J. Coote.

2.2 Appointment of sub-committees

Fr. Jerry thanked D. Egan - stating that there are two levels of difficulty. Work pressure: endeavouring to meet the needs of people in a strain and taxing. Donie appreciated Jerry's kind comments.

2.2.1 Planning and development:

Frs. Jerry, Patsy, P. Fitzpatrick, J. Coote, A. Finan

2.2.2 Fund-raising

Fr. Pat Carolan asked where C. Mohan should be involved? Co-option we need a consultant for grant applications. Fr. Jerry proposed by M. Kenny seconded M. Sills. M. Kenny proposed by Fr. Jerry seconded M. Finan.

N. O'Malley proposed by A. Finan seconded by D. Egan.

M. Sills proposed by Fr. Pat seconded by J. Coote.

T. McAssey proposed by M. Sills seconded by D. Egan.

M. Allen proposed by M. Sills seconded by D. Egan

M. Sills to organise meetings October 24th 8.30pm. D. Egan queried whether B. Shaw would be involved. It was agreed to ask her since she agreed at the AGM to continue her support.

2.2.3 Welfare Advisory Committee

Fr. Pat suggested Aidan O'Kane for co-option. J. Coote proposed by M. Sills seconded D. Egan.

Fr. Jerry said the WAC needs a broader range of skills with a realistic outlook.

Fr. Jerry proposed M. Allen seconded D. Egan hoping she would agree.

Fr. Jerry proposed T. Ganley as chair seconded by D. Egan.

K. Glynn - solicitor, F. Farrell - solicitor. D. Robinson - staff rep.

J. Coote said that terms of reference are needed. We have to take a stand. WAC controlled by Admin Committee. What do we want?

Fr. Jerry - a lot of good things.

J. Coote said WAC tends to be rather negative

M. Sills - we should keep communication going.

J. Coote rep from the Admin should report back to Fr. Jerry.

Fr. Pat - there are very influential people involved with WAC.

J. Coote - Admin. Must identify with Welfare. WAC are currently acting independently.

D. Egan said the sub-committee for inclusion at the next meeting guided by Fr. Jerry.

2.2.4 Social Committee

D. Egan proposed T. McAssey seconded M. Sills.

J. O'Brien expressed concern re the lack of co-operation with the social committee.

Bar - Douglas Hyde closed on function nights. Fr. Pat said it is impractical to open the bar.

J. O'Brien said injured being sustained on steps. Fr. Jerry said there is a Public Liability Insurance. Also it is unreasonable for the bar to be open.

Chairman said this is not the forum for such discussion.

D. Egan wished to formalise co-option of T. Ganley proposing her to join the Admin Committee seconded by Fr. Pat Carolan.

3. Minutes - taken as read.

Mgr. Stack - ref to page 4

J. Brannigan - did we realise he was deceased.

D. Egan - regretted we were unaware at the time. Fr. Jerry phoned and then realised and offered sympathy to the family. Minuted adopted on proposal of M. Sills seconded by T. McAssey.

4. Matters Arising

40th Anniversary - brilliant. Fr. Jerry regretted the clash with Cathedral celebrations but it was the only evening available.

Photocopier - termination of agreement. All communications verbal initially aggressive; late mellowed.

Sound-roofing MacNamara Hall.

D. Egan: written to EHA July, follow up 15th September with a formal technical proposal for the Fire Proof Door. Phoned this am. Correspondence delayed en route to relevant personnel.

M. Sills queried race night as proposed by Grosvenor Rooms. He was unaware that this request was turned down at the previous meeting, he was not in attendance.

5. Director's Report

Difficulty with Saxon Inns - number of weeks in arrears.

August: unfriendly discussions: £8,000 lodged. Not honoured, issue of writ, presented cheque for £2,000 not honoured.

J. Connell requested no further action. Company being refinanced 13th October - and they would pay weekly afterwards.

A letter had been received - money available. 15th October of no benefit to issue writ, no money available.

Six weeks' rent plus £2,000 in arrears.

Fr. Pat said Fr. Jerry had followed the correct course of action, we have no option but wait.

Welfare - a staff training day introducing good practices.

The issue of salaries - causing concern.

Luncheon club causing concern - unless numbers increase would have to close - have now increased, cost causing concern and cost of B. Walshe's salary.

Migrant Training Struggling for Finance in early stages. Service in kind given to them. Internal tensions in Camden. Auditor from Brussels has visited.

London Irish Centre - Invoices for service. Auditor may be coming back - Fr. Jerry hopes it does not jeopardise any future funding, questions surrounding LIC costs.

Audit on years 1992/1993. Invoices £28,000 £30,000.

J. Coote queried whether LIC has invoiced officially.

Fr. Jerry noted, rent time management stationery, counselling, training inflated. Migrant Training using LIC for back up.

Lawlor Foundation - two reps have visited queried the loan and high interest being paid vital to have departmental accounts. They were so concerned they brought an accountant and trustee to check.

Fr. Jerry - trustees appointed had been signed by Patrons.

Peter Fitzpatrick is seriously ill. Jim Commane states he is too busy. Consequently a vacancy exists and will need to be dealt with as an urgent priority. Constitution for upgrading.

An oblate student - Andrew Small based at Irish Centre. A law graduate studying in Rome working in Welfare.

Request from Solais Anois for space at Irish Centre then fund-raising different. Women against violence. D. Egan said they were refused previously due to possible conflict of interests.

Fr. Jerry stated a clear guideline needed; two staff members involved. J. Coote suggested this is not ideal. Unease about their commitment.

Fr. Pat: we are not happy with them. Refer due to planning and development forthcoming.

Fr. Jerry - said we need the finance. Mgr Stack - continue with strategic review; put them off.

Fr. Pat agrees they do good work. Chair asked whether we should defer. Fr. Pat suggested we need more information. D. Egan: due to strategic review taking place, space required needs to be identified, rent expected and decision next meeting.

J. Coote: requested Director's reply quantifying rent and that they are made aware of strategic planning.

Fr. Jerry: carpet in small bar needs replacing.

J. Coote: broken door and window D Hyde maintenance must be continued.

Fr. Jerry said windows were rotten. But finances restricted.

6. Financial Report - already discussed.

7. AOB

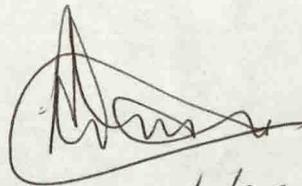
Fr. Pat has a meeting with a Housing Organisation keen on buying the Irish Centre site. Keen to build another Irish Centre elsewhere. They would send in a team to do a feasibility study/survey at their own cost - including an architect. They would buy the Centre at Market value: ? 1.3 million. They would build an Irish Centre at Chafont St at their cost.

M. Sills: confidentiality with the committee - extremely important. Re-iterated by D. Egan.

Two complimentary tickets for National Ballroom available.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 7th November 1995, 8pm sharp.



7/11/95