

• **London Irish Centre**  
**Administrative Committee Meeting 2.4.96**

- *Present* M Sills VC, J Kivlehan OMI, M Fitzsimons, M Allen, J Coote, P Carolan OMI, T McAssey Rev Phelan, M Kenny.

**Apologies: N O'Malley J O'Brien**

- Meeting chaired by M Sills in absence of Chair.
- A vote of sympathy to J O'Brien on the death of his wife proposed by P Carolan and seconded by M. Allen and unanimously agreed.

**Welfare Report**

- No copies available. Christine Mohan on leave. Fr Jerry reported two vacancies as advertised; short listing completed. Interviews Thursday 11.4.96 includes a national lottery board Volunteer Co-ordinator. Good candidates, Deirdre and John's replacements; both have given loyal service.
- Re: the meeting with Christine, following complaints - issue under dispute Christine said two letters one from Fr Jerry had been received - one only the true picture. She said there was misrepresentation of what happened. Considerable conflict within the department. Now a disciplinary matter.
- M Allen asked whether we could have the letter of complaint from Andrew read. Fr Jerry said it was along verbatim report when Christine reported it was distorted. Andrew alienated when Fr Jerry was away.
- Handling of Community Care Plan. No obvious attention of Irish interests - jeopardising our future. All staff critical of Christine's performance and behaviour.
- J Coote; this is a grave concern and should not be allowed to drag on.
- We must seriously think at what point does Christine's departure take place.
- Fr Jerry take advice on personnel law and act on it.
- Minutes of previous meeting having been circulated were adopted on the proposal of M Allen, seconded by P Carolan. Following corrections.
- ADD Mgr G Stack to March meeting attendance and correction of mis-spelling 'Revelation Phelan' should read 'Rev. Phelan'

**Matters Arising - none**

**Director's Report**

- Saxon Inns
- Contract signed Mercury Taverns UK LTD. Mark Butler and Paul Deval Directors. In the written contract no mention made of Irish Centre.

- Administrator will introduce Mercury Taverns to Irish Centre. They have agreed to the terms of the contract - will look at the performance and the bookings and review the situation at the end of April.
- Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April) with Camden Council should it take place.
- Definite proposals should be put forward I Centre Council - few organisations left stated M Sills.
- J Coote - decision should commence a properly worked out vision, homework done pre meeting. We must have something concrete to present. WE have no practical and financial support.
- Fr Jerry: has organised a feasibility study in a few weeks. Calling an EGM Fr Pat aid we may get defeated.
- J Coote: have we got ownership; if not no responsibility.
- Fr Jerry: if trade not there, insolvency ill come. Interest £36,000 PA. WE cannot take money from the Charity.
- M Sills: the solution is a smaller Centre.
- J Coote: feasibility study and guarantee of management . Presentation of a properly prepared package. Administrative Committee must act.
- Fr Pat: w should move on our vision, sell the premises.
- Fr Jerry: it is the people's decision, he will be guided by the will of the people - a corporate decision. \*
- Frequent calls from St Pancras housing.
- Cara interested in No 12. £160,000 auctioneer. C McHugh will forward a letter to Cara.
- J Coote advised caution selling assets with a view to reducing loan. This will defeat the argument. We need to revitalise the Irish vision in the area.
- Documents - trustees now signed.
- Staff Handbook
- includes a section on Management Committee Policy ethics etc. - ready next meeting.
- Constant harassment by media in relation to the PTA. A very severe impact on young Irish - 80,000 - 100,000 Irish people questioned, 7,500 held 264 charged. Not a productive law. Perhaps the police could find another way.
- Development
- J Coote said - a project worth considering needs for future greatly reduced. To Fr Jerry; can we justify remaining in the existing Centre. It will only cost money.
- Fr Jerry: the Irish Centre is grossly under utilised vision for 15 years. We need a new site. It would be good, a lasting memorial if we move off site.

- Arlington Rd premises viewed by Committee members in the evening is in the right area. A better opportunity to extend the building offices - or extend interests in whatever way - perhaps a parish interest.
- M Sills - impressed with Arlington Rd.
- In the right area, room for development.
- T McAssey: ideal situation, make an offer, good potential.
- J Coote: sell the best bits.
- **Option:** Mary Allen proposed. Make an offer - seconded by Fr Carolan. Agreed. If offer made favourable consideration. Fr Jerry to act.
- J Coote - serious negotiations needed.
- Strategic Planning
- a meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April with Annabel Beerel AIB. We need to have an alternative vision. Not property driven.
- Letter - requesting meeting with Council of London Irish Centre from CICA not to hand.
- Fund-raising: dance not very successful. £100
- Car Raffle: to be organised.
- Camden Grant: £26,000. £15,000 running costs.

#### **Finance Report - copies**

- Welfare, development, management for year to date. February 1996. Circulated and details discussed.
- Welfare considerable expenditure
- Day Care: £4,576.67. Meals estimate cost £4.
- A net loss: £10,997.49.
- management net profit: £31,439.91
- Development: net profit £79.92

#### **AOB**

- A letter of complaint from Clare Association - re poor food, lack of service and attitude of management on St Patrick's day following parade.
- Fr Jerry said he regretted this cause for complaint, taking into account, the amount of work done by T McAssey, and the St Patrick's committee, to make it a success. He expressed thanks to T McAssey and his team.
- J Coote - proposed the letter (original) should be referred to Centre Management acknowledging receipt of same and disposal to Clare Association.
- Entertainment Licence

- Fr Jerry stated we are in an unfortunate position. If we do go ahead, we do not have a structure in place. Who is going to deliver? Receiver running premises at the moment. It is difficult.
- Advice: 6 months time. Re-apply.
- We cannot give guarantees. If the licence is refused. It is the weakest time.
- We admit we did not deliver commitment.
- M Allen: Do you apply for postponement?
- Fr Jerry: all bookings are private parties.
- M Allen: proposed - ask for postponement second by T McAssey. Agreed though it may now be too late.
- Fr Jerry: when do we reapply - probably dependent on progress - 6 months ahead.

Meeting closed - 9.50pm.

Date of Next Meeting 14.5.96