



the irish centre

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REG. CHARITY NO. 221172

LONDON IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

8 October 1996

Our ref: Present : J. Kivlehan OMB, M. Allen, J. Coote, T. Ganley, J.O'Brien, M. Kenny,
Your ref: Rev. F. Phelan, M. Fitzsimons (Sec).
Date: Apologies: A. Finan, T. McAssey, M. Sills, N.O'Malley.

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated - J.O'Brien was present at the last meeting - entered.

Matters Arising:

M. Allen asked if Donie Egan should be included in the Development Sub-Committee. It was agreed that he should be included and invited to forthcoming meetings.

Welfare Report:

Vivien Harvey the new Co-ordinator is in post since 7 Oct. She is a dynamic person with an ability to energise her staff.

There is an increase in caller to The Welfare Centre. many difficult cases and there is a great need for accommodation. With the introduction of the Job-Seekers Allowance we expect an increased number of young people. People will now be forced into accepting poorly paid jobs. With the absence of a minimum wage their total weekly salary will have to pay for their accommodation. The Job Powerhouse is beneficial in securing reasonable employment. An increasing number of elderly people are enquiring about the possibility of returning to Ireland.

3. We received a proposal from Arlington House suggesting that the Aisling Trip to Ireland should come under the umbrella of Arlington House. In return the Irish Centre would have a token representation on its Steering Committee. We did not consider their proposal to be acceptable. J. Coote asked if the Irish Centre wanted to retain responsibility to the trip. It was agreed that it is not acceptable to remove this service from the Irish Centre in the manner proposed by Arlington House. Arlington House to be notified.

4. Day-Centre Developments: The work is in progress - we encountered a great deal of dampness in the walls - Renlon are now damp-proofing the walls. This is an expense and a delay that we had not anticipated. M. Allen asked "when will the work be completed and will we be cooking on the premises" Fr. Jerry suggested that this is an option that should be considered. J. O'Brien asked "who will appoint the contractor" - Fr. Jerry outlined the process of appointment as demanded by the National Lottery. The decision will be made by the Architect after receiving acceptance from the Lottery Board.

T. Ganley asked "what ideas have we developed for using the Centre - Literacy Classes, Women's Mental Health Groups etc... J. O'Brien queried the amount received and how it had to be spent - Fr. Jerry " we received a grant of £99,000.00 , 39,000.00 is to be used for refurbishment and £60,000.00 is for the Volunteer Co-ordinator's salary for three years.

5. We have made two applications for ESF grants - one is for part funding of staff costs and the other is for £200,000 to upgrade our information technology.
6. Camden Irish Needs Day - will take place in the Town Hall on 12 Oct at 9.00am. Fr. Jerry will attend.
7. Difficulties with the CRE regarding the content of an advertisement.
8. Health and Safety legislation will mean that we will have to upgrade our health and safety procedures and equipment.

Director's Report:

1. New Constitutions- Draft copies have already been circulated and note has been that of the suggested amendments -

Retain Council of Irish Centre

Need for two Committees - Social/Cultural Committee

- Welfare Committee

The purpose of the Welfare Committee would be to drive forward our welfare services in a professional and committed manner. This would need a committee of informed people, with a good working knowledge of community care legislation.

Rev. Phelan expressed concern re; mal use of the Irish Centre - it has recently been used for an anti-fascist meeting and also for new age religious groups. The Irish Bishop's would not like this". J. Coote indicated that the Irish Bishops have not fulfilled their role regarding the Irish Centre. We have a large Centre and it is under used, - we advertise and invite groups to use our Centre and for that reason the Centre is used by a wide verity of groups.

2. Trustee's meetings: Two have already taken place and one arranged for October. We have given consideration to the Beerel Report - the Trustees were very much unaware of the present complexities of the Irish Centre.

3. Property Report: Time was given to a property overview - document put in place for management of property and management of debt - a burden on our resources.

It was decided to recommend to the Trustees that we should sell No 12 Murray Street. All dealings should be carried out in an objective manner. The offer from CARA Housing at £140,000 is unacceptable. If sold by auction we establish a reserved price.

4. Letting of the Kennedy Hall:

A Group of people associated with the Spanish Embassy have requested a long lease on the Kennedy Hall. They need a hall and a TV room and the suggested fee is £20,000. J. Coote suggested a short term lease. Decision to lease for one year - Fr. Jerry to deal with the situation.

5. Entertainment Licence: We are still negotiating regarding our licence and we are still encountering a great deal of complaints from neighbours. We may get there in the end - it will be a fight.

6. Mercury Management:

Account circulated and trade figures are not very good.

7. Visit of Gerry Adams - concern expressed. The request to provide a venue for the launch of his book came to us at short notice because of difficulties at the House of Commons.

8. Meeting of the residents of Camden Square on Fri. 11 Oct.

9. Federation of Irish Societies: Concern that they are not making any real effort to pay outstanding rent and this is not acceptable. M. Allen proposed " a letter be written to the chair requesting all outstanding monies". Seconded by J. O'Brien and Fr. Jerry to write. Job Powerhouse rent is agreed.

10. AGM: The date was agreed - 28 Jan 1997. Nov. Meeting will be given to discussing propositions.

FINANCE:

Copies circulated - Annual accounts needed much earlier. Items detailed by J. Coote. Accounts accepted.

A.O.B.

J. O'Brien stated that the Douglas Hyde Hall needs upgrading and re-decoration. Fr. Jerry to look into the matter.