

Present: Fr Malone, Canon Woods, D Egan, P Judge, F Aherne, Sr Anne Marie,  
M Moroney, K Kenny, T Dunne and D Quinn.

In Attendance: D Ambrose, Fr Ryan, P Keegan.

Apologies: D Daly, J Troy, Fr Gordon.

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the new wing of Conway House. The Committee expressed its thanks to Fr Ryan for the hospitality extended to the Committee Members.

### Minutes

On a proposal by M Moroney, seconded by P Judge the Minutes of the December meeting were adopted.

### Matters Arising

#### Murphys' option to take over commercial activities of the Centre

D Ambrose wished to know whether the option was "put" or "call" option.

The Chairman felt that the Committee had merely noted Murphys' interest in taking over the commercial activities.

D Ambrose said it was dangerous to agree to do something unspecified in the future and suggested that as the Murphys' settlement would require to receive the approval of the patrons the receipt of that approval could be used as a ploy to defer matters whilst wording acceptable to the Centre was agreed.

D Ambrose agreed to attend a meeting with Murphys if such was considered necessary.

Fr Malone said that the essence of the agreement was that Murphys had, by the option, the opportunity to compete if commercial activities were contracted out.

D Ambrose said there should be a time limit within which MURphys could be "offered the option".

Fr Malone said the Committee would have to be aware of the agreement with Murphys. The Committee would have to instruct the Trustees who would, with the patrons' approval sign the agreement.

It was proposed by M Moroney, seconded by P Judge and carried that the Committee meet on Thursday, 12 January at 8.00 p.m. at the Centre, agree the wording of the Murphy agreement and conclude the necessary resolution authorising the Trustees.

The extent of the personal liability of the Committee members remains to be clarified.

Regarding last month's Minutes on the sub-Committee re the proposals re the day-care centre the sub-Committee comprised of P Judge, F Aherne, M Moroney and Fr Malone duly met on 29 December.

They felt there was approximately 4,000 sq.ft. of usable space. The Committee felt it was premature now to consider uses for the spare space. There was too much on - agreements with creditors, the forum etc. to devote time to the issue.

The meeting of the executive regarding the appointment of a manager was held after the December Administrative Committee Meeting.

There were four applications in response to advertisements and one candidate who was recommended. The executive was on the point of inviting the recommended candidate for final interview when D Daly refused to be associated with the meeting and disclaimed responsibility for the actions of the executive. She accused the Treasurer of diverting funds raised by Fr Butler to a bank account controlled by the Oblates and left the meeting. As she had not resigned from the Committee it was suggested that the remarks were made "in a fit of temper".

D Daly subsequently informed Fr Malone that the GLC had made her a personal grant for drama - money which should have gone to the Centre if it had acted on her advice and followed up her initiative by applying for a grant.

There was a general discussion on the Committee's attitude to Mrs Daly.

Two proposals were floated

- (a) an apology
- (b) resignation.

The Chairman suggested he ask Mrs Daly at the next meeting for a withdrawal of or substantiation of her allegations against Fr Malone and an apology.

T Dunne proposed and P Judge seconded that she be informed in writing that her specific allegations wherein she accused the Treasurer of embezzling the Centre's funds for <sup>its</sup> own personal benefit were discussed at the meeting and that in view of the allegations the Committee was obliged to demand from her a substantiation or repudiation on the allegations coupled with an apology. The Administrative Committee Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday of February.

The motion was carried unanimously by a vote of voting members. Fr Malone abstained.

It was decided unanimously that the Chairman write to Mrs Daly in the above terms.

The Chairman read his letter to Fr McGonagle following the last Administrative Committee meeting.

There was a letter from Fr Butler to the Chairman which, inter alia, requested that the Committee subscribe to provide him with a scooter value IR£1000.

Fr Butler's farewell tribute by the Leitrim Association was subsidised by the Centre to the extent of £600 Sterling. The menu was upgraded and drinks ordered by Fr Butler which was responsible for the subsidy.

T Dunne proposed and D Quinn seconded that IR£500 be subscribed. However an amendment proposed by M Moroney and seconded by Canon Woods that a subscription of IR£1000 be made was carried unanimously.

### Forum

Notifications have been sent out. An advertisement is being placed in the Irish Post inviting London-based Irish organised bodies to send two representatives. It was agreed that the forum would take the following format:



- (1) F. Caulfield to present a paper on the origin and current ownership of the Centre
- (2) Fr Malone to speak on the Centre today
- (3) D Egan to speak on the Centre in the future
- (4) T Barron to speak on finance
- (5) T ~~Barron~~<sup>Beatty</sup> to speak on fund-raising.

On a proposal by M Moroney seconded by T Dunne and carried T Beatty is to be asked to chair the meeting.

Regarding the Waterford Golf Day T Beatty will donate £10,000. D Ambrose suggested it be given by way of covenant.

Fr Woods appealed that each speaker at the forum be limited to prevent the forum becoming boring.

The following was the suggested sequence of the forum.

D Ambrose and Sr Anne Marie suggested that the participants break up into discussion groups and that the seating would be assembled accordingly.

Each group would elect its own spokesperson and would have a Committee member in it.

Registration would be at the door and each participant would be given a gummed name - lable on registration.

The speaker for item 1 would take 5 minutes, item(2) 5 minutes, item(3) 10 minutes, there would be 10 minutes for questions, 20 minutes for in syndicate discussions and 20 minutes for reports back.

There would be no official tea break, tea would be brought in.

Item 4 would take 5 minutes, item(5) 5 minutes, item(6) 10 minutes, 10 minutes for questions, 20 minutes for in syndicate discussions and 20 minutes for reports back.

There would then be a general question time.

The Chairman will attempt in his summing up to get commitments re fund-raising projects and Fr Malone was authorised to take on temporary help to prepare for the forum.

#### Appointment of Manager

Mr Tim O'Connor was appointed. He was due to take up duty on 16 January 1984 but was called for jury duty.

His appointment was agreed at an executive meeting.

The final interview was held on 20 December, the interview board being composed of D Egan, Fr Malone, T Barron.

## Festival Council

The Council met on 9 January 1984 to receive draft Accounts for the 1983 festival to make a division of the proceeds of the 1982 festival and to progress the formation of the limited company.

After provision for VAT of £6,875, there was £8,895 carried forward from 1982 which was divided 50% between the Council of Irish Counties and the Centre.

In the 1983 the festival netted £22,000 and the proceeds of that festival are to be divided after the 1984 festival.

There is no VAT liability for the period to July 1983.

There remains an undetermined liability for Corporation profits tax.

The accountant wants the Council to be aware of the need to publish Accounts - as the festival is a voluntary undertaking.

A press release will be issued to all Irish papers following the 1984 festival.

D Ambrose said that profits from the festival should be covenanted.

Irish Centre representatives to the festival council will this year be John Murphy, J Troy, B Shaw and F Aherne.

Fr Ryan said there was need for new ideas and to get more people involved.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.25 and an expression of thanks to Fr Ryan for the hospitality of Conway House.

The next monthly Committee Meeting was set for 14 February 1984 at 8.00 p.m. at the Irish Centre unless otherwise notified.