

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AT THE IRISH CENTRE 9th OCTOBER 1984

PRESENT: Fr. Malone, O.M.I., E. Keogh, M. Kenny, M. Moroney, P. Judge, G. O'Flynn, D. Kelly.

APOLOGIES: Fr. Fulham, T. Dunne, S. McGarry, T. Mangan, Fr. Ryan.

In the absence of Mr. T. Dunne (Chairman) it was proposed by G. O'Flynn and seconded by P. Judge that M. Moroney take the chair. The proposal was carried.

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PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by G. O'Flynn and seconded by M. Kenny that the minutes of the previous meeting be taken as read. The proposal was duly carried.

MATTERS ARISING

LICENCE:

Fr. Malone, T. Dunne, together with the legal representatives of the Centre attended Clerkenwell Magistrates Court for the hearing in relation to the renewal of the Centre's licence. After consultation with the Centre's barrister proposals were made on behalf of the Centre re certain undertakings and the objectors in attendance, Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Murfitt, dropped their objections. In court the licence application was heard un-opposed and was renewed for a period of ten years. Legal costs incurred amounted to £600.00 i.e. £60.00 per annum for ten years, which was considered inexpensive.

The renewal of the licence for the McNamara Hall comes up in March and it is possible objections may be made on the renewal of the McNamara Licence.

BREWERIES:

Discussions have already taken place with Whitbreads. Those representing the Centre were Fr. Malone, T. Beatty and T. Dunne. Charringtons and Courages are yet to be consulted to renegotiate new terms.

ARCHITECT:

The original contractor, who carried out the work on the roof of the McNamara Hall, has been recalled to carry out a survey because of a leak. The water tank continues to be a problem. It is also reported that there is now a leak in the Kennedy Hall.

SALES MARKETING:

The avenues being explored towards the more professional marketing of the Centre and its facilities is progressing (refer to the minutes of previous meeting).

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of thanks was received from Mr. P. J. Keegan and his family for a most enjoyable evening which took place as mark of appreciation for Mr. Keegan's contribution to the Irish Centre on the occasion of his Silver Wedding Anniversary.

CANON WOODS:

It was suggested at our previous meeting that the Centre should do something for Canon Woods in appreciation of the work and support he has given to the Centre over the years. The proposal was inadvertently omitted from the minutes. Fr. Malone stated that he would consult with Canon Woods prior to a final decision being taken by the Committee.

MAINTENANCE:

The air conditioning in the Kennedy Hall and the Douglas Hyde Lounge is in need of repair or replacement. Central Maintenance of Romford, the Centre's usual maintenance contractors, are very expensive and charge £40.00 to attend. A quotation has been received from them for repairs totalling £33,100 plus V.A.T. It was considered that it might be cheaper to install a new unit rather than to repair the existing one at this price. Other quotations are to be requested.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

- (a) Fr. Oliver Barry has been appointed as a Chaplain to the Centre.
- (b) The negotiated agreement with the Bank of Ireland has now been signed by the Patrons and the Trustees and has been delivered to the Bank.
- (c) Evening for Fund Raisers: The evening held at the Centre was a great success, and 70 - 80 people attended. A meeting will take place on Sunday 4th November at 3.00 p.m. to review fund raising and to set targets for the coming year.
- (d) An application has been made for an Urban Aid Grant which will be used to finance a Day Care Centre for the Elderly. The Centre will also be used for youth activities in the evening.
- (e) The G.L.C. have approved a grant for £15,000 for the purchase of computer equipment. The Centre must comply with G.L.C. conditions before payment is made. The G.L.C. or Camden Council will also pay the salaries of the training staff required.
- (f) It was considered that there was now an urgent need for a Management Committee consisting of three to four people seconded from the Administrative Committee. The setting up of this committee will take place shortly.
- (g) Stock Report: Shortages in the bar over the past two months have amounted to approximately £30.00 per week. M. Moroney suggested that staff meeting take place to discuss the matter.
- (h) Complaints: Complaints were received re overcharging in the McNamara Hall at social functions.

Concern was expressed re a booking by the Glens of Antrim Association in that the association issued 1,000 tickets for a function in the Kennedy Hall, which can only accommodate 150 people. 300 people turned up for the event and the Centre was left with the problem

of placating those who could not get in. Future bookings from this association to be reviewed.

The availability of conveniences was raised by G. O'Flynn in that he stated that some toilets were closed by 9.30 p.m. When a meeting is taking place in the Douglas Hyde Lounge, the downstairs toilets should remain open. Recently on requesting a member of the staff to re-open them, his request was refused. The extent of Administrative Committee Members authority in such matters should be defined and communicated to the staff to prevent a re-occurrence.

- (i) Youth: Ms. K. Fitzsimons without prior discussion with the Directors of the Centre or the Administrative Committee, made an application to the I.L.E.A. for a grant for youth activities. While she is appointed youth officer of the Centre, it must be pointed out to her that she has no authority to apply for grants or to commit the Centre without due authorisation. It was proposed and carried that a letter be sent expressing our concern for her lack of consultation with those who hold responsibility for the daily running of the Irish Centre.

WELFARE

DION (IRISH FOR SHELTER/ROOF):

A new five member consultative body called Dion has been set up by the Department of Labour in Dublin, to advise on the distribution of allocated funds to Irish Welfare Bodies in Britain.

The members appointed are as follows:

SEAMUS McGARRY (Chairman of the Federation of Irish Societies).

GEOROID O'MEAGHOIR (Haringey Irish Society).

BILL JESTIN (Irish Embassy).

ORLA O'HANRAHAN (Irish Embassy).

SEAN REDMOND (Portsmouth Irish Society, now living in Dublin).

Funds available from the department have been increased to £IR 68,000 for the coming year (from £IR 38,000).

The Dion Committee is attending the Centre on the 20th October and the Centre's Welfare Department will produce graphs, statistics etc to highlight the Centre's needs.

A trainee social worker (who is a graduate) has been taken on at No. 50. She will be with us for one year.

As a result of an advertisement for a professional social worker, four people have been sort listed from ten applications and interviews will take place on the 8th November.

M. Moroney expressed concern at the Centre's expenditure on Welfare. Fr. Malone stated that we were pledged by our constitution to provide welfare assistance for those in need. As a direct result of the age we live in, an expert social welfare member is required to advise recipients of our services on the social welfare system and the benefits to be derived there from. He also stated that the volume of those requested assistance has trebled in the past two years, and that this year to date the Centre has dealt with twice the number of cases that it dealt with for the whole of 1983.

#### HOSTELS

Once again the report is that the hostels are full to capacity and there is no let up on requests for accommodation.

Irish Centre Hostels have issued a cheque for £50,000 to purchase the site adjoining the Quex Road Hostels. Funding for building purposes on the site is expected from the Housing Corporation.

#### APPOINTMENTS

At the next Administrative Committee meeting the following matters are to be dealt with:

- (a) Appointment of officers to the Welfare Committee.
- (b) Appointment of four persons to the Working Committee of the Irish Festival.
- (c) Appointment to replace D. Kelly.
- (d) Appointment of representative of the social club to the Administrative Committee.

#### CLUB COMMITTEE

Fr. Malone and G. O'Flynn attended a meeting of the Social Club and reported that the Club Committee now has its full compliment of members.

CHAIRPERSON: A. Coyle.

SECRETARY: Pat Keane.

TREASURER: Fr. Malone.

The above appointments were ratified by the Administrative Committee.

G. O'Flynn was proposed by M. Moroney and seconded by Fr. Malone to represent the Administrative Committee at Club Committee Meetings.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Fr. Malone will be absent from the Centre from the 15th November for a period of one month. The new Chaplain Fr. Barry will assume command.

D. Kelly tendered his resignation from the Committee due to his transfer from London.

Fr. Malone on behalf of the Committee thanked him for his efforts.

Next Meeting to be held on the 13th November at the Irish Centre at 8.00 p.m.