

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE

ON 12th FEBRUARY, 1985

PRESENT: T. Dunne, Rev. C. Malone, O.M.I., S. McGarry, P. Keegan,
Mrs. E. Kehoe, Miss M. Kenny, A. Coyle, J. Davis, M. Moroney,
G. O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES: P. Judge, T. Mangan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed A. Coyle to his first meeting and P. Keegan as a new member of staff.

MINUTES

G. O'Flynn complained about alterations made to an omission from the minutes which he had prepared. After some discussion it was agreed that his draft should be accepted as follows:-
the last sentence of the second paragraph under (e) Management should read as follows - "strong disapproval was expressed regarding the strip show which took place in the Lounge Bar on the occasion of a staff party".

It was made clear that this was not an official Irish Centre function and the Management Committee was unaware of it.

It was also agreed that the following paragraph which had been omitted should be reinstated under (f) Welfare - "The new Social Worker, Miss Clare Doherty, will commence employment in January. Seamus, of the Welfare Department, will appear on the Day by Day programme on RTE in the New Year". Fr. Malone will obtain copies of the video cassettes of the interviews.

Subject to the above alterations the minutes were approved on a proposal by M. Moroney, seconded by Miss M. Kenny.

MATTERS ARISING

The painting offered by Bord Failte could not be used in the Centre because it is too big.

M. Moroney said that former Directors should each be asked to supply a 10 x 8 photograph to allow the display to be completed.

The position about non-attendance at meetings by J. Kennedy had not yet been sorted out.

Mrs. E. Kehoe had heard rumours that J. Murphy would not work for the London Irish Festival if he was not a member of the Festival Working Committee. To allow him to be appointed she tendered her resignation with the assurance that she would still do everything she could to ensure the success of the Festival. It was then agreed that J. Murphy be asked to represent the Centre on the committee.

a) Breweries

P. Keegan reported that a meeting between the Breweries and the Irish Centre regarding the outstanding loans took place at Messers Whitbread's office on 18th January, 1985.

After detailed discussion on the repayment of loans, £138.000, to the respective Breweries, it was proposed by the Breweries that a new agreement be entered into by both parties. The terms of the proposed agreement was basically as follows:-

repayment of £45,000 over a period of 18 months with a moratorium on interest and the balance of loans to be repaid over a period of 8½ years.

Should this agreement be acceptable and implemented, there would as a result be a saving of £19,000 in interest outstanding over a period and waived.

A further meeting is due to discuss the above proposals and agree and acceptance or offer counter proposals. Our representatives, Fr. Malone, P. Keegan, T. Beatty, were given authority to negotiate.

b) Fund Raising

A meeting has been arranged for 28th February, 1985 at 8.00 p.m. An advertisement will be placed in the Irish Post and it is hoped it will be mentioned in the Peter Kennedy Column.

c) Youth

At this stage Miss K. Fitzsimons joined the meeting and was welcomed by the Chairman.

Miss Fitzsimons did not reply to the letter which she received from the Chairman because she felt he was unsure of the facts regarding grants. Registration must be sent to I.L.E.A. and any resulting grant would be paid to the Irish Centre. The usual setting up of the grant is £300.00 but £500.00 had been earmarked for the Irish Centre. Equipment will have to be inspected next year and an inspector will need to see the group in action.

Miss Fitzsimons outlined activities by the Irish Centre Youth Group in 1984.

They took part in festivals at Brighton, Woking, Harrow, Luton and Roundwood Park. Boys and Grils teams took part in football and ten pin bowling.

They were represented at the England Youth meeting at Glastonbury, Federation of Irish Societies Congress, F.I.S. Youth A.G.M. and regional meetings, Sawyer School in Dublin, Anti Racing Policy Conference, Westminster Diocesan Management Committee course, Opening of International Youth Year.

They took part in the Sponsored Walk in aid of the Irish Centre and the proceeds will be presented at a Dinner Disco.

They presented £150.00 to Sr. Aidene to send a handicapped child to Lourdes.

The year ended with a Youth Workers Dinner, and a Youth Folk Mass and Disco.

Plans for 1985 include participation in Ten Pin Bowling, Football and Table Tennis. Teams have been entered for the B.I. 'Knockout' competition.

A further cheque for £180.00 will be presented to Sr. Aidene. Two members of the Group are going to Rome for the Youth celebrations 28th March - 2nd April. It is also hoped that some members will visit the International Youth Camp on the Continent July - August.

Meetings are held at the Irish Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Miss Fitzsimons was commended for her work and achievements with the Youth and she was assured of support. S. McGarry said that her work is a shining example of what is happening unrecognised and unknown to Irish people. The International Committee for Youth (under 18) have invited competitors from this country to their games in Ireland.

Fr. Malone hoped that the application for an Urban Aid Grant would be successful to enable refurbishment of the unused portion of No. 50 for use as a Day Care Centre for the Elderly and use by Youth in the evening.

d) Management

Mrs. D'Arcy has been interviewed for the position as Manager and a draft contract of employment has been prepared.

Stocktaking results are satisfactory.

Complaints were received regarding the quality of beers at a recent function. This was quickly put right on the night by Mrs. D'Arcy. Complaints were also voiced about differences in prices between the Douglas Hyde Lounge and the Lounge Bar. Complaints were also made about the condition of the toilets particularly in the Douglas Hyde Lounge.

It was proposed by Fr. Malone that a Management Committee^{meet.} This was agreed and it will comprise the Executive Committee plus A. Coyle. This proposal will take effect from the appointment of the new Manager. They will submit monthly reports to the Administrative Committee.

e) Welfare and Hostels

Fr. Ryan reported that both developments had been completed apart from some snagging work. The Hostels are very comfortable.

There has been a big increase in application for accommodation and advice especially from Northern Ireland. Many are very young, educated and willing to work. The problem can only get worse because Ireland cannot cope with the increasing youth numbers.

No. 18 Quex Road has been bought to provide accommodation for the elderly. A Government grant has been applied for. The adjoining property is now also for sale.

Two Social Workers visit the Hostels twice weekly. More visits by them are necessary. Work is available but lack of accommodation is a big problem.

Fr. Ryan queried the position regarding two vacant floors in the Irish Centre, and was informed that Fr. Malone is having a meeting with an official of Camden Council in the hope that Camden will refurbish this section for use as a Night Shelter.

In reply to a query Fr. Ryan said that the Embassy will pay fares home for destitute people provided he signs an indemnity for the cost of the fares plus £10.00 expenses.

The Dion grant has been increased from £64,000 to £104,000

f) London Irish Festival

Several meetings of the General Purposes Committee have been held with a view to improving the general and financial structure.

The Working Committee is now assembled and will get to work shortly. Our representatives on this committee are P. Judge, T. Mangan, J. Murphy, and Mrs. B. Shaw.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sympathy was expressed with and prayers were asked for T. McGuinness who suffered a serious accident after leaving the Centre.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

~~12th March, 1985~~

Thursday - 21st March.

J. Shaw 21
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