

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 11th JUNE, 1985

PRESENT

T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Mrs. E. Kehoe, Miss M. Kenny,
Fr. J. Gordon, A. Coyle, P. McAuley, T. Mangan, J. Myers,
F. Swan, M. Sills, S. Troy, G. O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES

Fr. J. Smith, J. Davis.

IN ATTENDANCE

Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

Mr. T. Dunne presided and opened the meeting with a welcome to all, especially members present for the first time. He hoped that meetings would commence at 8.00 p.m. and conclude at 10.00 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and adopted, on a proposal by A. Coyle, seconded by Miss M. Kenny.

MATTERS ARISING

With regard to the position of Secretary of the London Irish Festival Working Committee, S. Troy said that despite the report in the minutes he was not aware of any query and had not been asked for his opinion.

G. O'Flynn informed the meeting that according to the Constitution, the officers of that ~~Committee must be elected by the members from their own numbers.~~

S. Troy now agreed to look into the matter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Fr. Malone presided during the election of Chairperson.

Elections were as follows:-

CHAIRPERSON

T. Dunne, proposed by Mrs. E. Kehoe, seconded by T. Mangan.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

S. Troy, proposed by Mrs. E. Kehoe, seconded by A. Coyle.

HON. SECRETARY

G. O'Flynn, proposed by A. Coyle, seconded by Mrs. E. Kehoe.

TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Fr. C. Malone, proposed by G. O'Flynn, seconded by A. Coyle.

T. Mangan was proposed and seconded for Vice-Chair but withdrew.

T. Dunne thanked members for re-electing him and looked forward to continued co-operation.

Fr. Malone said the Committee should prepare for the day when a Lay Treasurer would be appointed.

HOSTELS

To facilitate Fr. Ryan, the Hostels Report was taken next. For the benefit of the new comers he explained that Irish Centre Hostels Ltd now operates two hostels

Hostels Contd.

one for men at Quex Road, Kilburn and one for women at Medway Street, Victoria. Both hostels are full and the demand for accommodation is heavy. There has been a big increase in applications from recently arrived persons, many of whom have health problems, e.g. T.B., heart, epilepsy.

Recently an ex-resident of Conway House who had moved to a flat was found dead shortly afterwards as a result of carbon-monoxide poisoning due, Fr. Ryan believed, to a faulty water-heater. A suggestion of suicide made at the inquest was strongly refuted by Fr. Ryan who is following the incident closely. He is not satisfied with the way the fatality was treated by doctors, police and Gas Board Officials.

No. 18 Quex Road has been purchased for development as a home for older men. Half a million pounds has been approved for this purpose.

Efforts are being made to purchase no. 16 Quex Road for development as a Centre for younger people leaving Conway House. A recreation centre is badly needed. The average age of residents at Conway House is now down to 21. They do not now accept anyone over 35.

Staff in both hostels are very busy. The Irish Centre has not been able to supply the promised Social Worker. It is now hoped to recruit a student for a year.

Fr. Ryan suggested that the Irish Centre develop the unused section of the Irish Centre as a night shelter for the homeless. Unfortunately, funds are not available.

The Chairman thanked Fr. Ryan and Sr. Anthony and their staff for their work at the hostels. Good wishes are sent to Sr. Anthony who is convalescing after an operation. Sr. Una is leaving and ~~a letter of thanks is to be sent to her.~~

Fr. Ryan invited members to visit both hostels on a tour of inspection and suggested that a Administrative Committee meeting to be held at Conway House.

BANK AGREEMENT

A letter dated 1st May, 1984 from the Bank of Ireland containing the agreement between the Bank of Ireland and the Council for the Irish Centre was placed before the meeting. It was proposed by T. Mangan and seconded by Miss M. Kenny and unanimously agreed that the Administrative Committee of the Council for the Irish Centre accepts the terms and conditions of this letter and undertakes to use it's best endeavours to implement them.

IRISH CENTRE CLUB COMMITTEE

It was unanimously agreed to appoint A. Coyle as Chairperson, Miss P. Keane as Hon. Secretary, and Fr. C. Malone as the Hon. Treasurer of the Club Committee.

~~Thanks~~ were expressed to the ~~Social Club Committee for their work~~ over the past year and they were assured of continued support for the year ahead.

FEDERATION OF IRISH SOCIETIES CONGRESS

T. Dunne and Fr. C. Malone were appointed to represent the Irish Centre at the Federation Congress.

BREWERIES

Agreement has been received with the Breweries regarding the method of repayment of outstanding loans and adjustment of volumes.

Repayments will commence as from 1st July, 1985 and will comprise 24 equal monthly payments from that date as follows:

CHARRINGTONS £271.00 per month.

WHITBREADS £896.00 per month.

COURAGE £708.00 per month.

If this part of the agreement is adhered to, the current outstanding interest will be waived in part. Severe penalties will be imposed in event of failure to comply.

After completion of the first part of the agreement the second part will run for eight years from June 1987.

FUND RAISING

(a) An agreement has been reached with Crestblue who organise special sales of Marks & Spencers second quality goods and overstocks. Under the agreement the Centre receives 20% of gross takings. £300.00 was received from the first sale held in the McNamara Hall. ~~It was agreed to pursue this on a parish basis.~~

(b) The Car Raffle appears to ~~be~~ going very well. Over £3,000 has already been lodged in the Bank. It was decided to have as many selling points as possible in Roundwood Park. This will have to be agreed with the Festival Working Committee.

A suggestion was made that wives of members be invited to form a Committee for fund raising.

WELFARE

The Welfare Department is under severe pressure. Numbers of applicants have increased dramatically. The holidaying students are now arriving.

~~A new Social Worker~~ (Breege Brandon) is starting in July and a ~~Clerical Student~~ is coming for a year. It is hoped to be able to send a Social Worker to the hostels.

Application is being made again to the L. B. of Camden for an Urban Aid Grant. It was also decided to apply to Camden Housing Department for a grant for refurbishing the old section of the building as a night shelter for homeless people.

Welfare Contd.

~~Fr. Malone will ask the Welfare Department for monthly reports for presentation to our meetings.~~

The Action Group for Irish Youth have completed an inquiry to trace the origins and movements. A report will be presented at a conference in September.

LONDON IRISH FESTIVAL

The marquee at Roundwood Park will be fully manned all day. Car Raffle tickets will also be on sale all day.

MANAGEMENT

It was agreed that a Management Sub-Committee is essential, also a Financial Sub-Committee. It was agreed that quarterly financial statements be presented. The Fund Raising Sub-Committee will also continue to function.

The members of the Management Sub-Committee are T. Dunne, Fr. Malone, P. Keegan with Mrs. D'Arcy to be called in when necessary.

The Finance Sub-Committee members will be T. Dunne, Fr. Malone, P. Keegan, F. Swan and S. Troy.

~~A professional P.R. Man is giving a half day per week free. Monthly stocktakings show satisfactory results.~~

Mrs. D'Arcy will submit a ~~Management Report~~ monthly.

MAYOR'S EVENING

This function was a success. The Mayor of Camden, The Mayor of Brent are anxious to attend the Festival and are to be invited.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. Coyle said the ~~Guinness~~ in Douglas Hyde Lounge is often too warm. ~~Too many staff have been on duty on Sunday evenings.~~ The ~~carpet~~ in the JFK hall has still not been put right. there are also some ~~loose floor boards~~ there. In future such matters are to be reported to the Management Sub-Committee.

~~A letter of congratulations~~ is to be sent to ~~Barry McGuigan~~.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th July, 1985

J. [Signature] 9.7.85