



the irish centre

52 CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON NW1 9XB

TELEPHONE: 01-485 0051/52

REG. CHARITY NO. 221172

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date 2/4/86

Minutes of the meeting of the Administrative Committee held at the Irish Centre on 10th March 1986.

Present: T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Miss M. Kenny,
A. Coyle, J. Davis, P. McAuley, T. Mangan, J. Myers,
F. Swan, S. Troy, G. O'Flynn.

In Attendance: P. Keegan, Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

In opening the meeting the Chairman apologised for the late start which was due to an earlier meeting of officers.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by T. Mangan, seconded by J. Davis.

It was stated that some members had not received their copies of the minutes, others only today.

The same applied to the notice re fund-raising meeting.

Matters arising: With regard to the suspension of Club Members A. Coyle said that Mrs D'Arcy had some amicable discussion with the persons concerned and it was now felt that the suspensions should be delayed. Fr. Malone said that it was up to the Club Committee to take the necessary action. He said that we do not want to force the issue. The Chairman suggested that a sharp watch be kept on the persons concerned and the Manager must be protected.

In regard to this incident A. Coyle said that the Chairman of the private function had not been abused as stated in the minutes. The secretary replied that the abuse was reported at the last meeting and had not been questioned.

Finance: P. Keegan has monitored wages and salaries for the months of January and February and he wants to discuss them with the Finance Sub-Committee.

Turnover for January was very low, February was a bit better, March is looking up somewhat but will not be up to March 1985.

A meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee will be held on 25th March 8 pm. P. Keegan suggested monthly meetings. Meals can be provided if an earlier meeting time is arranged.

The question of lunch-time opening is being considered. A micro-wave oven is being purchased and it is hoped that this will enable the lunch-time opening to commence shortly.

In reply to a complaint it was stated that the bar could not be opened on the occasion of the pensioners' meeting because of the licence.

Plans are in hand for up-dating the Lounge bar. The provision of an access for disabled is being considered and application for a covering grant will be made to L.B. of Camden.

Hostels:

Fr. Ryan thanked the Committee for the decision to appoint a Social Worker for the hostels. Seamus Taylor has prepared the job specification and the advertisement.

Conway House:

Fr. Ryan reported a new problem at Quex Road where residents are being attacked by gangs of local youths. On the previous Friday 30 of them chased residents into the hostel, knifing one resident inside the hostel.

The attack was repeated on Saturday night when a flare-gun was used. £150 worth of glass was broken and door locks had to be changed. Five of the attackers were arrested. The attackers are anti-Irish and are National Front Supporters.

This problem is putting extra pressure on Fr. Ryan, his staff and the residents. Fr. Malone said it should be reported to Camden Community Services who would take action.

St. Louise's:

Fr. Ryan reported that they are busy but quiet. No great problems.

Welfare:

A written report showed a continued increase in the number of applicants and it is expected that this trend will continue. In future a member of the Welfare Department will attend the Administrative Meetings to present the report.

Fund-Raising:

The monthly car raffle has been launched with an advertisement in the Irish Post. A meeting of the fund-raising Committee has been held and was well attended. At this stage five persons have paid £90.00 and ten have given Bank Standing Orders. A promotional meeting will be held in Croydon on Thursday.

Greg McAuley is circularising all London pubs. Provincial papers in Ireland are requested to give free advertising. Irish builders in the London area will be canvassed. Handbills will be distributed at the Saint Patricks Parade and a float carrying an Escort Car will take part. The advertisement will continue in the Irish Post, Morning advertiser and in the free papers.

Fr. Malone has requested letters of support from His Eminence the Cardinal and the Archbishop of Southwark and the Bishop of Brentwood. Approaches have also been made to the Catenians and the Knights of St. Columbia, also the Banks.

At this stage Fr. Malone paid a well-deserved tribute to Mrs Bridie Rooney for all the extra work she is doing.

Director's Report:

a) Development of 51/52 Camden Square:

Application has been made to London Borough of Camden for a grant to cover the cost of materials. P. Keegan has contacted Chris Garner of Camden who is organising support. Mr Garner is confident of the result which should be known by 20th March. John Healy, Labour Attache at the Embassy, is helping in negotiations with Anco and Minister of State, Geo Bermingham is also being helpful, and the result should be known next month.

b) Fund-Raising Activities:

The Clare Association has so far given £1,600 towards the cost of new chairs for the McNamara Hall. T. Mangan has raised £400 for the same purpose.

S. Troy said that the return from the draw run by C.I.C.A. for the new floor in the J.F.K. Hall was disappointing. Fears were expressed that the same sources were being tapped for every cause. Fund raising movements must be co-ordinated. The next fund-raising meeting will be held on the 23rd March.

c) Manchester Mayo Association Award:

It appears that some members had visited the Centre and were so impressed by the reception they had received and the activities here that they had recommended the award which was accepted by Fr. Malone.

d) Mayor's Evening:

This function which will be held on 29th April will be completely informal with a buffet self-service meal.

e) The Annual General Meeting of the Council for the Irish Centre will be held on 1st May 1986.

f) It was proposed by T. Dunne and seconded by G. O'Flynn that letters of sympathy be sent to the families of Tommy Maguire and Jim Troy. Fr. Malone was complimented on his conduct of both funerals.

P. McAuley said that Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann would be able to supply a new music teacher but insisted that the Maguire family would get first preference.

The Leitrim Association have arranged a special Mass for Tommy Maguire at 8.30 pm on 2nd April.

C.I.C.A. have provisionally arranged a special Mass for Jim Troy on 24th April. Final arrangements have to be agreed with his family.

London Irish Festival:

J. Murphy and E. Nolan have agreed to join Mrs E. Kehoe and T. Mangan as representatives of the Administrative Committee and the Festival working Committee, a meeting of which takes place on 20th March. P. Keegan allowed his name to be put forward for the position of treasurer.

The General Purposes Committee met to receive the draft accounts for 1985. The date of the end of the financial year has been altered which will mean further delay in finalising of the accounts.

The Trustees are still awaiting from the solicitor clarification of their duties and powers. Fr. Malone will remind him.

Disco Trouble:

A serious view was taken of the trouble on the occasion of the recent disco when overcrowding caused a problem. It was alleged that a member of the Club Committee aggravated the situation by telling those who had already been refused admission that there was still plenty of room inside. Some members of the staff were threatened. A tape-recorder belonging to a member of the club was stolen. It was agreed to replace this, proposed by T. Mangan, seconded by J. Myers.

At a management meeting at which Miss K. Fitzsimons was present the seriousness of the situation was pointed out, especially the risk of the licence being refused when it falls due for renewal.

It was agreed to allow one more disco on a trial basis on the following conditions.

- 1) Adults in the ratio of 1 to 15 must be in attendance and must help in stewarding and supervision.
- 2) Numbers be limited to 150.
- 3) All attending must be searched before being allowed in.
- 4) Exit door must be watched to prevent unauthorised leaving and re-entry.

Management:

Mrs D'Arcy reported that the new chef had left and Jimmy would return on Wednesday. Also, a new cleaner has been engaged.

Mrs D'Arcy complained that the Club Members who were due to be expelled had not been written to and she denied, as had been alleged earlier in the meeting, that she had "amicable discussion" with the persons concerned.

F. Swan said that if the Club Committee wanted to query the expulsion decision they should have appealed against it.

It was agreed to make the Club Committee aware of our dis-satisfaction at their failure to carry out our instruction in this regard. However, in view of the delay it was agreed to limit action to a letter of warning to the persons concerned. Fr. Malone will draft the letter.

A.O.B. - None

Date of next meeting 8 pm 8th April.

J. D'Arcy
Chairman

8.4.1986.