

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT

THE IRISH CENTRE

8 JULY 1986

PRESENT: T. DUNNE, FR. C. MALONE, O.M.I., FR. S. FULHAM,
FR. B. GILMORE, MISS M. KENNY, MRS B. SHAW,
T. MANGAN, J. MYERS, O'CONNELL, F. SWAN, G. O'FLYNN

APOLOGY: FR. J. GORDON

IN ATTENDANCE: FR. F. RYAN, O.M.I.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by Fr. Gilmore, seconded by Miss M. Kenny, subject to the addition of the name Mrs B. Shaw to the attendance list.

MATTERS ARISING

In reply to a query regarding membership the Chairman said he would write to S. McGarry to find out if he wishes to remain on the Committee.

Miss M. Kenny proposed and Mr G. O'Flynn seconded a motion that Mrs M. Hannon be co-opted to represent the Club Committee. T. Mangan proposed and Fr. Gilmore seconded that D. Rooney be appointed. On a vote Mrs M. Hannon was appointed by 7 votes to 2.

Having expressed her willingness to accept an invitation Miss M. Duggan was co-opted on a motion proposed by T. Mangan and seconded by J. Myers.

T. Mangan complained that despite his expressed willingness he was not appointed to the Committee which was set up to review the Constitution of the Irish Centre. It was pointed out to him that as Vice Chairman he was automatically a member.

It was confirmed that the quarterly revenue figures quoted in the minutes of the May meeting were correct.

No advice has yet been received from the Solicitor regarding possible changes to the Constitution.

MANAGEMENT

Mrs D'Arcy reported that her new assistant and a new barman had taken up duty. Both showed promise, especially her assistant who has useful experience.

The past month has been busy. Bookings, especially for weddings are good.

Admin Minutes - 8 July /continued...MANAGEMENT

Two discos took place during the month. Some damage was done in the toilets on each occasion - especially to ceiling tiles. A number of empty miniature vodka bottles were found in the ceiling area. Some young persons were seen to be quite drunk - some incapable. The majority are very well behaved.

It was decided to invite Miss K. Fitzsimons to a meeting to discuss the problems. It will be pointed out to her that all those attending must be searched on entry and that 8 to 10 adults must be in attendance for supervision.

The function organised by the GAA for the Kerry Hurling Team proved to be very unsatisfactory. The majority were late arriving and many were already under the influence of drink. A lot of noise and disturbance took place late in the night and the police were called about 2.30 a.m.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT51/52CAMDEN SQUARE

Confirmation has been received from the London Borough of Camden that £120,000 has been allocated for the purchase of materials. They require assurance about the source of the remainder of the finance required. ANCO are hopeful that work will commence in October; and is expected to take two years. A written presentation on the proposed project has been submitted to the Head Office in Ballsbridge.

Official confirmation has been received from the London Borough of Camden that the annual grant this year will be £37,200

Messrs Arthur Guinness have ^{been} asked to refurbish the small bar. No response has been received.

PRESS STATEMENT

Fr. Malone read a statement issued by some of the Welfare Department staff and published in the "Irish Press", urging the Irish electorate to vote 'Yes' in the Referendum on Divorce.

Also read was a lengthy response from Fr. Jim Butler, O.M.I. condemning the action of the social workers.

It was pointed out that they had acted without consultation with or permission from the Irish Centre. They are employees of the Irish Centre and have no authority to act independently. Any statements to be issued must come from the Irish Centre. Fr. Gilmore said that the Irish Hierarchy had allowed a free vote and in that light the statement was issued.

The Chairman said that a statement should be issued to the Press disassociating the Irish Centre from the Social Workers statement.

'8 July /Continued.....

PRESS STATEMENT /CONTINUED

T. Mangan proposed and Miss M. Kenny seconded a motion that the three persons involved be sacked immediately. It was felt that such action might be precipitate and might give rise to legal problems.

A proposal by G. O'Flynn seconded by Miss M. Kenny that we write to the Press disassociating the Irish Centre from the statement was defeated by 7 votes to 3.

On a proposal by Fr. Gilmore, seconded by T. Mangan, it was agreed to write to the persons concerned expressing displeasure and pointing out that the statement was not justifiable. The Chairman agreed to take legal advice on the *letter*

CAR DRAW

1,100 tickets have been sold and a profit of £20,000 is anticipated. Next draw will take place on 3rd August 1986.

LUNCHEON CLUB

There have been no further developments regarding the Luncheon Club, proposed by the London Borough of Camden

CHAPLAINCY

Fr. Malone said that, unaided, he was unable to celebrate all the week-end Masses or attend to all the duties of a Mass Centre. He has therefore, asked the Parish Priest at Kentish Town to take on the responsibility for Saturday and Sunday Masses and for Religious Instruction in the area.

This has been agreed and in future the Sunday collection will go to the priests of the parish, who will pay an annual rental for the use of the Hall. No arrangement has been made with regard to the Christmas and Easter Collections.

In view of the new arrangement a management fee should be paid to the Oblate Order for Fr. Malone's services. The fee was agreed at £6,000 per annum on a proposal by Fr. Gilmore, seconded by T. Mangan.

HOSTELS

CONWAY HOUSE: The Hostel is full all the time. Alcohol and drugs are presenting big problems. A drug pusher has used the premises.

ST. LOUISE'S: They are still very busy but have no great problems. The outside of the building is being decorated.

8 July /Continued.....

A new Social Worker (Miss Eithne O'Flynn) has been appointed to service both hostels. She will commence in August. Her salary will be paid by Irish Centre Hostels who will be re-imbursed by the Irish Centre.

Seamus Taylor was asked to vet the applications for the post. This he did, but he was not involved in the interviews. In a letter to the Chairman of Irish Centre Hostels he queried the competence of Fr. Ryan and his Hostel's Committee to make a valid selection.

Fr. Ryan said that the Welfare Workers were interfering in the internal affairs of the Hostels.

WELFARE REPORT

There are now six workers in the service. They are kept very busy with as many as forty five callers in one day. Many of them are hungry and have no money. In the first half of 1986 there were 1217 callers as against 1800 in all of 1985.

It was felt that a new head Welfare Worker with overall responsibility is required; and that we must have a new look at our objectives and capabilities.

Fr. Gilmore suggested a new approach to the Irish Government and the Irish Hierarchy.

MISS ORLA O'HANRAHAN

It was agreed to make a presentation to Miss O'Hanrahan on her transfer from the Irish Embassy.

NEW FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The Bank of Ireland have agreed to accept £200,000 plus £22,000 interest in full settlement of the Debt which stands at £300,000 plus £22,000 interest.

A loan of £200,000 by way of a mortgage has been agreed with Commercial Credit Services Limited for a period of 15 years at a rate of interest of 3.25% per annum above Finance House Association Base Rate which presently stands at 10.5%. The monthly repayment at that rate will be £2,564.00.

T. Mangan proposed and Mrs B. Shaw seconded a motion that we accept the advice of our professional advisers to borrow from Commercial Credit Services Limited for the sum of £200,000 on the terms outlined in the Schedule dated 16th June 1986. This was unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9th September 1986

J. B. Dunne
Chairman 9.9.86