

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE
IRISH CENTRE ON 10TH FEB 1987

Rev T Scully OMI, Rev J O'Donoghue, Mrs M Hannan, Miss M Kenny, T Dunne, T Mangan, J Myers, C O'Connell, F Swan and G O'Flynn.

IN ATTENDANCE: P Keegan

APOLOGY: Mrs B Shaw

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to all and explained that the January meeting had to be cancelled because of the bad weather.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by T Mangan, seconded by J Myers, subject to the alteration of paragraph 3 of the director's report to read as follows. "In company with Pat O'Shea of ANCO" instead of "Pat O'Brien of ACOT".

MATTERS ARISING

Miss K Fitzsimmons acknowledged our letter cancelling discos for the time being. She wondered whether she would still be allowed to hold her meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays. The meeting agreed that she could and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey this decision to her in writing. She has already been advised of the cost of damage done during discos and an invoice is being sent to her.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from Fr Gilmore, chairman of the Welfare Advisory Committee, notifying that the Welfare Advisory Committee had resigned en bloc because of the dissatisfaction with the present constitution of the Irish Centre. He also advised that he was sending copies of his letter to "interested parties".

The Chairman has written to thank them for their services in the past. He requested the names of the "interested parties".

In reply to questions Fr Scully outlined the history of discussions he had with the WAC since he took up duty.

Prior to his arrival the WAC had submitted to the Director a draft paper outlining problems in the Community Care Department, as they saw it, and making suggestions for improvement. Their main concerns were with the positions of co-ordinator and secretary which they wished to be replaced by a Team Leader and Executive Officer. He discussed this draft with them, he took it to a meeting of the Executive Committee who suggested a joint meeting with representations of the WAC. This meeting was held, discussion took place on the

various points, alterations were suggested and the representatives of the WAC agreed to report back to their members and would notify their position before the date of the next Administrative Committee meeting. This they had not done.

In reply to further questions Fr Scully said that changes made in the job specifications were that the holders would be involved in the day-to-day work as well as supervising. Welfare workers employed by the Irish Centre could not be members of the WAC; that we are here to provide knowledge and expertise, not to give handouts. We are not here to carry banners or make protests to Governments or Local Authorities. The WAC will be re-organised from experienced personnel. We already have two hostels and two more are in the planning stage.

The Committee agreed to accept the resignation of the WAC and Fr Scully was thanked for his efforts. The Committee also approved the decision of the Executive Committee to advertise the vacancies.

A letter tendering her resignation from the Administrative committee was received from Ms M Duggan. This was accepted.

Two letters were received from the IBRG seeking support for a lobby against PTA which is due for renewal.

A letter was received from Waterford Golf Society advising that they would be unable to organise their Charity Golf Day this year. They hope to stage it in 1988.

A letter was received from Eamonn Purcell offering to share his Golf Day at Stanmore on St. Patrick's Day. This was gratefully accepted.

MEETING WITH DION.

Following receipt of a copy of Fr Gilmore's letter tendering resignation of the WAC, DION Committee requested a meeting to clarify the situation. Four members of the DION Committee met the Executive Committee. Having voiced their concern and listened to Fr Scully's report the DION members expressed their satisfaction and assured us of their continued support. They advised us that later that day they were meeting some members who had resigned from the WAC.

FINANCE:

Draft accounts for the year ended 31st December 1986 were presented by Mr P Keegan. He hopes to have the final accounts for the next meeting. It was agreed to leave discussion until then.

WELFARE REPORT:

Sr Breda presented the report for January 1987. First time callers numbered 242 as against 161 in January 1986. Total interviews were 480 as against 317. Work and accommodation are still big problems.

Sr Breda gave an interesting insight into her work which is mainly directive counselling. Interviews vary from 10 minutes to one hour. Many clients come back for months, others ring up. Lack of counselling by clergy and teachers in Ireland is no help.

HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full. Unemployment is a big problem at Conway House. Progress is being made regarding the proposed developments at number's 16 and 18 Quex Road.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Plans are being pushed for the refurbishment of number's 51/52 Camden Square. Drawings will be available tomorrow. Four companies have agreed to submit tenders which are due by 3rd March. In order to take advantage of the London Borough of Camden grant, work must commence by mid-March.

There are problems with the existing building which could possibly be deemed unsafe. The previous builders have been asked to inspect. There is still hope that the Pensioners Luncheon Club grant may become available and that the Club can get off the ground in June. Community Services have undertaken to supply the labour to decorate the facade of the premises. We supply the materials. Work will begin in April.

The Provincial of OMI has acknowledged Fr Scully's report re WAC and has promised his full support.

The staff in the Welfare Department have accepted the recent increase in their salaries. They have received their new contracts of work and have said that they will carry on regardless of the resignation of the WAC.

FUND RAISING:

The attendance at the fund-raising meeting on 18th January was very poor. This applied particularly to the members of the Administrative Committee. Some progress was made.

Another meeting has been arranged to take place on 15th February when it is hoped the attendance will be better and more plans can be made.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

J Myers said that it was a waste of money having a dance in the McNamara Hall on the occasion of the monthly car-draw. He proposed that the draw take place in the Douglas Hyde Lounge on the Sunday morning. C O'Connell seconded this motion which was unanimously agreed. The Hon Secretary will notify the chairman of the Social Committee in writing.

The Annual General meeting of the Irish Centre will take place on 30th April at 8 PM

*** DATE OF NEXT MEETING ***

10TH MARCH 1987 AT 8.00 PM