

Towny

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

PRESENT:

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mr T Mangan, Mrs M Allen, Mr J Myers, Miss Mary Kenny, Mr C O'Connell, Anton Coyle, S Savage, G O'Flynn.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rev D Cormican, R Keegan

APOLOGIES:

Rev J Jordan.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome for all.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were adopted on a proposal by C O'Connor, seconded by J Myers. This was subject to correction of two misprints.

MATTERS ARISING

The suggestion that members of the Administrative Committee should be on duty at weekends on a rota basis was queried. What would the duties be? Should they wear some form of identification? It was agreed that it was important to liaise with the Manager.

FINANCAL REPORT

Mr Keegan presented accounts for the nine months to 30th September. Copies were distributed to members. The accounts showed a small surplus for the period. On the income side grants and donations were down. On the expense side wages were up. Fr Scully said that overheads are too high and income too low. A costing exercise is long overdue and must be done immediately. Brewers loans outstanding are as follows:

Whitbreads	£11,000
Courage	£34,000
Charringtons	£47,000

It would be advisable to deal with one Brewer, preferably Charringtons. The possibility is being investigated at the moment.

The situation in the Borough of Camden is a big worry. The Homeless Persons Unit is in disarray. NALGO members are on strike. There is a serious risk that our Annual Grant will be cut. The Day Care Centre grant is also at risk. The Luncheon Club is still scheduled but it is also very much at risk.

The allocation from the Irish Government is to be announced shortly.

#### WELFARE REPORT

The Welfare Report for October was presented by Paul Murphy.

The number of new clients interviewed (232) was less than in September, and also less than those of October 1986.

The British Nationality Act is causing a lot of concern. The Irish Embassy has issued an explanatory leaflet and application forms are available from the Home Office in Croydon.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday are very busy days in the Department. The staff need time to update records and complete filing. Voluntary workers (young and old) are urgently needed for routine work, such as getting lists of B & B accommodation, making home visits, help in the Welfare Department, man the door etc.

The alterations to the offices are going ahead and the architect is to advise on the installation of a fire escape.

The job description for the position of receptionist is a cause for concern.

#### HOSTELS

Fr Scully reported that both hostels are full to capacity with long waiting lists. So far this year there have been 1400 applications to Conway House and 1500 to St Louise's. DHSS does not set a time limit on payments to hostel residents but they do limit payments to eight weeks in B & B accommodation. They estimate that the cost of living in London is now £93.00 per week.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(1)

##### 51/52 Camden Square

Work is progressing well but there have been a few holdups in supplies. Engineers are still investigating the source of the under floor water. The work is due for completion on 18th December.

(2)

Fund-Raising

The recent Jumble Sale raised £117. A Bazaar is being held next Saturday and the Xmas Raffle tickets will be available shortly.

(3)

Car Draw 1987/88

The Draw will make a profit but the results are very disappointing. There has been poor co-operation from people in the Centre. A profit of £100,000 would have been realized if all 2,000 tickets had been sold.

(4)

Proposed Concert 22nd October 1988

It was unanimously agreed to accept the offer by Seamus Troy to stage a Concert at Wembley. A vote of thanks to Seamus was proposed by Mrs M Allen and seconded by Miss M Kenny and passed unanimously. Father Scully encouraged members to give him full support. A deposit of £3,000 must be paid as a booking fee.

(5)

Day Care Centre

The building costs will amount to £166,000 to which must be added £34,000 for fees. The grant promised by the London Borough of Camden is £120,000 of which three instalments have been received. As already intimated the London Borough of Camden is experiencing a lot of difficulties at the present time and it is uncertain whether they will subsidise the Day Care Centre.

(a)

Proposed Advisory Group

The proposed advisory group re Day Care Centre is proving difficult to organise.

(b)

Staffing

Staffing of the Centre is very important and will cause problems. There must be a full-time person in charge. It must be professionally organized and a lot of voluntary help will be needed. It is planned to accommodate 40 elderly people from 10.00am to 4.00 pm Monday- Friday. 1200 applications have already been received. Transport will also be a problem as ambulances will not be available. Volunteers will be needed. A. Coyle suggested that a special meeting should be called to discuss problems.

(c)

Furnishing

Appeals for help have been made to several bodies including the Council of Irish Counties Associations who are considering it.

(d)

Equipment

The Centre cannot double as a Centre for the elderly and as a Youth Centre because vastly different furniture and equipment would be needed for each. The alternative is to give the youth sole use of the Kennedy Hall two nights per week. Their equipment could be stored in the well under the stairs. A full review of the uses of the various Departments of the Irish Centre must be undertaken.

(6)

Proposed Hostel Development 51/52 Camden Square, London NW1

It is proposed to use the second and third floors as a hostel. The Irish Centre could run it itself or it could lease it to Irish Centre Hostels Ltd under the Housing Corporation who would pay for the development. The latter suggestion would release finance and would help to raise revenue for the Irish Centre. Nineteen bed spaces are visualised and they could be used to house better people from the hostels. Alternatively, it could be used as a Student's Hostel. A. Coyle proposed and T. Mangan seconded a motion that we negotiate with Irish Centre Hostels and the Housing Corporation. This was unanimously agreed.

SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE

Tom Mangan reported that because of dissension in the Committee the chairman had resigned. An Extraordinary Meeting will take place on 18th November when the positions will be filled; eight appointed by the Administrative Committee and seven elected from the floor. Following advice received from our solicitor doubt was expressed about the validity of disbarment of the old Committee and of the notice to members notifying the holding of an Extraordinary General Meeting. However, the Administrative Committee agreed to go ahead as outlined. It was agreed that the outgoing Hon Secretary Miss M McHale would open the meeting and ask for proposals for a person to chair the Extraordinary General Meeting. The Administrative Committee agreed the following appointments:

Chairperson: Anton Coyle  
Hon Secretary: Miss M McHale  
Treasurer: Rev T Scully

Members of Committee:  
Miss M Kenny, Mrs M O'Brien, P O'Brien, J Devaney,  
S Savage.

BARS AND CATERING

No report

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER 1987 AT 8PM

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J. [Signature] 8/12/87