

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 8TH DECEMBER 1987

1 PRESENT:

T Dunne, Mr T Mangan, Mrs M Allen, Mr J Myers, Miss Mary Kenny, Mr C O'Connell, M Mahony, Anton Coyle, G O'Flynn, F Swan.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rev D Cormican, P Keegan

APOLOGIES:

Rev J Gordan, Rev T Scully, Rev S Fullam.

2 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 A Coyle. This was subject to correction of two misprints.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

P. Keegan presented an Income and Expenditure account for the nine-month period ended 30th September. Gross profit on bars and catering were 50% and 48% respectively and showed slight increases in turnover compared with the corresponding period last year.

P. Keegan pointed out that for five months of the year no functions are held. The periods in question were from mid-June to mid-September and from mid-December to mid-February. A concentrated effort must be made to reduce that gap.

Cost of Welfare is £76,000 and there is a deficit of £44,000. £19,000 has been received from the London Irish Festival. The Irish Government grant has not been received but it has been approved at £76,000 pints.

Outstanding loans are as follows:-

Charringtons	£ 45,000
Courage	£ 33,000
Whitbread	£ 11,000
Commercial Credit	£190,000

Watneys have shown interest and are preparing to submit an offer in writing.

Suggestions made to attract business were:-

- 1 Sunday lunches in the McNamara Hall.
- 2 Snacks and coffee to be available in the Lounge Bar.
- 3 Bars should be open during the day, especially Saturdays.

It was considered advisable to get a Restaurant Licence for drinks to allow extension of time in McNamara Hall for lunch on Sundays.

Cleaning of the premises including kitchens is unsatisfactory. Quotations have been received from Contract cleaners to do regular cleaning plus two 'deep-cleans' per annum. They show probable savings on present costs.

A proposal by A Coyle, seconded by M Kenny, that we accept contract for one year was agreed unanimously.

5 WELFARE

- (a) The written monthly report for November, presented by Paul Murphy showed that 51 female and 153 male new clients were seen during the month. This was a slight reduction on the previous month.
- (b) Fire risks are still being investigated and precautions are being taken.
- (c) The British Nationality Act is still a cause of worry to many people and 300 copies of the Irish Embassy Statement have been distributed.
- (d) Staff
Recruiting of a receptionist is causing problems and has still not been resolved. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed on the delay in making progress on suggestions which they make. New staff are more amenable than previously. N Murray has still not signed his contract of employment.
Voluntary workers would be a big help and would enable Welfare Workers to deal with more claims more expeditiously.
It was pointed out that counselling is not included in the Welfare Department's duties.
- (e) A 'traveller' who mounted a picket on the premises has been referred to the London Borough of Camden.
- (f) The London Borough of Camden's Homeless Person's Unit has reduced its activities considerably and is now sticking rigidly to the legal obligations only.
- (g) Birth Certificates
So far this year 1400 have been applied for.

HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full to capacity with waiting lists. There will be a meeting of the Finance Committee on Thursday.

7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Fr Scully the report was given by P Keegan.

(a)

51/52 Camden Square

Work will be completed by 18th December with the exception of the reception area which will be completed in January. The delay has been caused by the number (117) of variations made by the Architect on the original plans.

It is hoped to commence operation of the Day Care Centre in February with the official opening in March. The Committee is now being organised and plans are being made to recruit staff and voluntary workers, also therapy teachers. Sponsors are being sought for furnishings.

(b)

Fund-Raising

Nothing to report.

(c)

Car Draw 1987/88

Sales are slightly up on last year and should ensure a profit of £20,000 at least.

(d)

Wembley Concert

The initial deposit has been paid and S Troy is planning the programme.

(e)

Projects

Refurbishing of the small bar, the Douglas Hyde Lounge and completion of the back staircase will commence in January. Lighting and ventilation in all the halls will also be checked.

8 SOCIAL CLUB

The new Committee is working well and business at weekends is improving. Bar service is often not satisfactory and lights

sometimes switched off too early. Bar should be open during the day. Membership fee should be increased to £1.

(9) BAR and CATERING

This will be dealt with by the Executive Committee when Mrs D'Arcy can be present.

(10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) London Irish Festival

The following were appointed to represent the Centre on the London Irish Festival working Committee:-

P Keegan, T Mangan, J Murphy, E Nolan

(b) Irish Centre Youth Club

Members are children of Irish Parents.

T Dunne proposed and M Kenny seconded that the Club be allowed the use of the J F Kennedy Hall each Monday and Wednesday; and that storage space be allotted to them in the stair-well. Final details will be arranged by the Executive Committee.

(c) Farewell Buffet

It was agreed to hold a buffet for the AnCO workers before they leave. It was also agreed to invite the Welfare Department staff and Irish Centre staff, and the Administrative Committee. This will be held on 15th December at 6.00pm.

(d) A vote of sympathy was passed to Fr Scully on the death of his brother-in-law RIP. P Keegan will arrange for Mass to be said.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 1988 AT 8PM

THE CHAIRMAN WISHED ALL EVERY HAPPINESS AND GOOD LUCK FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

J. D. Dunne
chairman 12.1. 1988