

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE - 8th MARCH 1988

1. PRESENT:

REV T. SCULLY OMI, T. DUNNE, REV J. FULHAM,
MRS M. ALLEN, MISS M. KENNY, A. COYLE, M. MAHONEY,
T. MANGAN, J. MYERS, C O'CONNELL, S. SAVAGE,
F. SWAN, G O'FLYNN.

APOLOGIES:

REV J. GORDON

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the January meeting having been circulated, were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by J. Myers, seconded by C O'Connell.
As there was not a quorum no meeting could be held in February. Members present discussed various items on the proposed agenda and notes taken (copies attached). Those present were Rev T. Scully, J. Myers, F. Swan, G O'Flynn and P. Keegan. The notes were accepted as a true record on a proposal by T.Mangan, seconded by M. Mahoney.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. FINANCE REPORT:

This was covered in notes referred to above.
The drop in takings was attributed to lack of customers and drop in number of functions.

5. WELFARE:

Paul Murphy presented his written report which showed that the figures for February were slightly higher than in February 1987.

Many DHSS Offices are open only for a short time, if at all. Money for B&B is often impossible to obtain. With the implementation of the 1987 Social Security Act next April the situation will be much worse and, inevitably, calls to the Centre for help will be vastly increased. Many new arrivals are still coming with no money or a place to stay.

A suggestion was made that the Irish Government should give emigrants four weeks dole before they leave but all representations and appeals are being ignored or lost in a welter of red tape. Reports outlining the problems have been published in many newspapers but there has been very little response.

Claims for repatriation are increasing. They must be properly authenticated by the home Parish Priest or the Gardai. The embassy does not re-imburse the cost of the fares.

The Emigrant Chaplains Conference at Easter and the AGIY Press Conference at the same time will focus attention on the problems. Whether there will be a positive response remains to be seen.

The priorities in order of importance are: accommodation, identification, employment. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Paul and his staff for their efforts.

6. HOSTELS:

Both Hostels are full all the time. Ground problems have caused a 12 week backlog in building the hostel for the elderly in Quex Road.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. The Day-Care Centre is now completed. Furniture will be delivered in two weeks time.
The Mayor of Camden, the Chairman of Social Services and other dignitaries attended the Centre today and were very impressed with the facilities.
2. Still hoping for a grant from London Borough of Camden but there is no money available yet. They have promised that the Centre is at the top of the list.
80 elderly people have made applications. The Committee has been formed and it is hoped to start with lunch for 35 people, two days per week. The cost to the customer - 60p. A group of volunteers will operate the scheme.
3. The lounge bar will be finished next weekend.
4. The Douglas Hyde lounge bar will be finished next weekend.
5. The remainder of the premises need redecorating.

8. SOCIAL CLUB:

A. Coyle reported some improvement generally but Sunday mornings are not good. An area for hanging coats is needed. Some broken tables need replacing and the scorched sign behind the bar should be removed.
Staffing of bar needs improving. Several members complained that customers have walked out because of poor service.

9. BARS AND CATERING:

Mrs D'Arcy should attend meetings when bars and catering are being discussed. The chairman promised she would in future.

The point was emphasised that one person cannot adequately supervise four bars as well as the catering. A head barman or preferably an Assistant Manager is required.

Response to booking inquiries is not satisfactory. Bookings should be taken away from Mrs D'Arcy and the diary should be made available at reception. A list of Mrs D'Arcy's duties should be drawn up.

Customers should get a copy of the wine list with the booking form and wine lists should be on the tables.

10. A.G.U. date - 28th April 1988.
11. Mayor's Reception - 12th May 1988.

12. A.O.B.:

Mrs Allen thanked the Centre for the Tom Devine function which produced a very worth-while result.

13. NEXT MEETING:

Date of next meeting - 12th April 1988.

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