

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE
IRISH CENTRE ON 10TH MAY 1988

1 PRESENT:

Rev T Scully, Rev J Gordon, Rev G Stack, Mrs M Allen, Miss M Fitzsimons, Mr Anton Coyle, Mr Jim Myers, Mr T Mangan, Miss M Kenny, Mr T Dunne, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES:

Rev J O'Donoghue, Mrs U Cooper.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev D Cormican.

The Chairman welcomed all especially new members.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As there was not a quorum present on the proposed date of the April meeting the minutes of the March meeting had not been adopted. They were now adopted on a proposal by T Mangan, seconded by J Myers. Members present on 12th April discussed items on the agenda and notes taken by Fr Cormican. These were presented to the meeting and accepted as a true record of the discussions that took place subject to deletion of items on Page 2 "Sub-committees". Copies of the notes were distributed to members.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Members were reminded of the Mayor's Banquet on 12th May.

A Coyle said that drink prices had not yet been altered. The Chairman undertook to look into this matter urgently.

4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Fr Scully took the chair for the election of chair-person. He thanked the outgoing officers and Committee members for having worked so well for so long, especially T Dunne and the other members of the Executive Committee.

The following were elected unanimously:

Chair-person T Dunne proposed by T Mangan, seconded by Miss M Kenny

Vice Chair-person T Mangan, proposed by Mrs M Allen, seconded by J Myers

Hon Secretary G O'Flynn proposed by C O'Connell, seconded by Mrs M Allen

Hon Treasurer Rev T Scully proposed by T Dunne, seconded by G O'Flynn

Director, Rev T Scully, proposed by T Dunne, seconded by G O'Flynn.

5 IRISH CENTRE CLUB COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting be held at the Irish Centre on 1st June 1988.

The following were appointed to the Club Committee for the coming year:-

Chair-person - A Coyle by a majority vote.

Hon Secretary - Miss M McHale by a majority vote.

Hon Treasurer - Rev T Scully, unanimously.

The following five persons were appointed to the Committee:-

Mrs M Cormack, Mrs P Finucane, Miss M Kenny, Mrs M O'Brien, Mr P O'Brien.

6 SUB-COMMITTEES

The following Sub-Committees were appointed:-

- (a) Executive - The Officers
- (b) Finance - T Dunne, Fr Scully, F Swan. *M. Mahoney*
- (c) Maintenance - T Mangan, J Myers
- (d) Bar/Catering - Members of Executive and Finance Committees.
- (e) Development - Deferred
- (f) Fund=Raising - All members of the Administrative Committee.
- (g) Social - Social Club Committee.

7 WELFARE REPORT

Mr P Murphy presented his written report for April and distributed copies to all members. Returns showed a drop of 10% to 15% in callers compared to April 1987. He felt that the main reason for the drop was the intense publicity in Ireland.

Some problems are due to DHSS who are currently 2 weeks in arrears. The situation for Irish people will deteriorate in September. Because of threatened violence by callers panic buttons must be improved and increased in number. Women as well as men have threatened violence. One man had a shotgun.

Camden Homeless Persons Unit are taking phone referrals only which means extra work for our staff. The Chairman promised that all possible action would be taken to ensure the safety of staff. He thanked Paul and his staff for their devotion to duty.

8 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full and have waiting lists. The new Act is creating problems at Conway House with increased arrears in rent. DHSS giro's are two weeks late and landlords will accept tenants only with payment in advance. Thanks was expressed to Fr Ryan and Sr Anthony and their staffs.

9 FINANCIAL REPORT

Business has declined in the past year, mainly due to a drop in the number of functions. We must canvas new business and preserve it with more efficient and attractive service.

The cost of the Day Care will amount to £170,000 plus additional professional fees. Refurbishment of bar will cost £46,000. As a result of this work two extra rooms have become available.

10 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) Day Care Centre

The official opening will take place on 25th May. It is hoped that Bishop Guazzeli, The Irish Ambassador, The Mayor of Camden and other dignitaries will attend.

The Centre is now in operation and is being serviced by voluntary workers. The numbers attending average 18 but 48 have applied for membership. The hours are 10.00 - 4.00pm but so far the majority arrive at about 11.00am and start to leave at about 2.00pm. Lunch is served at 12.30pm at a charge of 60p. ILEA has provided craft tutors and many of the members are interested.

The armchairs are due for delivery on 16th May.

(b) New Lounge Bar

The County plaques for the Counties Bar have now been delivered and

will be fixed in position shortly. They cost about £20.00 each. Some County Associations have contributed £100.00 each towards the cost.

(c) Youth

The JFK Hall will be available for the Youth group each Monday and Wednesday. The store for their equipment is now ready.

(d) Canon Woods retirement

Canon Woods who conceived the idea of the Irish Centre in the first place and who has worked tirelessly for it in all the intervening years is retiring to Ireland and it was agreed something must be done to pay tribute to him. It was left to the Executive Committee to make the necessary arrangements, subject to his approval.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) In answer to a question it was pointed out that there is no official photographer attached to the Irish Centre; it is the prerogative of the users to make their own arrangements.

(b) Dance on Christmas Eve

It was agreed that Christmas Eve is not a suitable occasion for a dance, especially because of midnight Mass.

(c) Children

A complaint was made that reasonably priced drinks are not available for children. Neither are nuts, crisps, etc. This complaint should be put in writing to ensure responsive action. Another complaint was made that the hand machine in the Ladies room has been out of action for some time. It was suggested that a lady be appointed to look after the cloakroom and keep an eye on the toilets. The existing toilet roll holders are not satisfactory and should be replaced.


The Munster Counties are planning to redecorate th McNamara Hall. Fr Gordon complimented the Centre on the new premises and wished it every success.

The July monthly Draw will now take place on Friday 1st July to prevent a clash with the Festival Draw on Sunday 3rd July.

Fr Scully appealed for volunteers to sell car raffle tickets at the Festival. Up to 100 sellers will be needed from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING' - 14TH JUNE 1988 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

DATE OF QUARTERLY MEETING - 16TH JUNE 1988.

J. 
14.6.88