

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 12TH JULY 1988

1 PRESENT:

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mrs M Allen, Mrs M Fitzsimons, Miss M Kenny, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES:

Mrs U Cooper, Mr T Mangan, Mr M O'Mahoney, Mr J Myers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Murphy.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by C O'Connell, seconded by Mrs M Fitzsimons.

3 MATTERS ARISING

The quarterly meeting of the Council was an utter flop. It is imperative that a bigger attendance is realised. Each member of the Administrative Committee should ensure that at least four member bodies are represented.

4 FINANCE

We still owe approximately £20,000 in respect of recent works. The final account has not yet been done and the professionals are very slow in submitting their accounts. Liam Martin will be asked to check all accounts.

The cost of overheads must be carefully scrutinised. It is hoped that the London Irish Festival will show a profit in the region of £20,000, thus ensuring a sum of £10,000 to the Centre.

It was agreed to recommend to the Directors of the Festival that the rules as embodied in the Constitution must not be changed. The Federation of Irish Societies are to blame for the fiasco regarding the Birmingham 6 application.

It was alleged that car raffle tickets were not available in South London.

5 WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented a written report for the month of June. Numbers are slightly down compared to June 1987. The majority of callers are students. A new system indicating the type of problem has been devised and is being brought into use.

One member of staff is sick and another, Niamh Coyne, has tendered her resignation as she wants to attend an educational course. An advertisement has been placed for a replacement under the new job description Social Advice Worker. The successful candidate must have experience in career guidance. New guides have been produced by AGIY and Tom O'Connor. Mr O'Connor wants to start a London Co-operative consisting of ten groups of thirty members. They would be hoping to raise £500,000 from London Boroughs and a further £500,000 from the European Social Fund. Fr Scully has written to the Irish Government regarding Government Grant and E C Social Fund.

Large numbers of youths who have completed the 6 months training courses in Ireland are coming here and unable to continue their training. We are endeavouring to provide facilities at a future date. Fr Scully has been in touch with the London Borough of Camden and the Irish Embassy regarding migrant workers. A suggestion for a fire escape for the classroom is to be investigated. It would cost approximately £250.00.

6 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full with waiting lists. Work is in progress on the OAP hostel in Quex Road. It is due for completion early next year and will accommodate 20 persons. BBC cameras visited Conway House to-day. They were shown the facilities offered and interviewed some of the residents.

7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) Application has been made to the Lotteries Fund in Dublin for a grant for development work. Career guidance and Youth Training will be a big part of the programme. Leisure centres are needed for hostels, money for which does not come under the Housing Corporation Grant. CARA today launched its pamphlet, "Irish Homelessness - The Hidden Dimension" at a press conference attended by His Eminence Cardinal Hume and by His Excellency the Irish Ambassador. By comparison The Irish Centre 'hides its light under a bush'.

(b) An average of 25 people per day attend the Day Care Centre. Classes are in abeyance until 15th September when teachers will come and demonstrate classes available.

(c) The Counties Bar is O.K.

(d) Applications have been made to British Telecom and to Nestles (Ireland). Nothing has been heard from the Ireland Fund. Other sources of revenue must be tapped.

The question of repeating the 12 month Car Draw must be decided at the next meeting. To justify repetition firm commitments for sales must be obtained. (e) The air conditioning and leaking roofs are still problems.

(f) The London Irish Festival profit is much below last year. The Festival Car Raffle should realise about £8,000.

(g) Letters of complaint against management and staff have been received and passed to Club Chairman. There was also a letter of complaint from the local MP.

8 SOCIAL CLUB

There was no report as the Chairman was not present. It was agreed to cancel the weekly advertisements in the Irish Post. The other Irish papers will give news in their social columns.

9 BARS AND CATERING

No report.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Letters of thanks were received from B & I and Leitrim Association in respect of recent functions. The Limerick Association Dance raised approximately £300.00 An estimate of just under £5,000 has been received for decorating the McNamara Hall, foyer and passageway.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON - 13TH SEPTEMBER 1988 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. D. Dwyer 13.9.1988