

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 9TH NOVEMBER 1988

1 PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Rev J Gordon, Rev J O'Donoghue, Rev G Stack, Mrs U Cooper, Mr A Coyle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev D Cormican.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and were adopted on a proposal by T Mangan, seconded by J Myers.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Returns from the Albert Hall Concert have not yet been received. Tickets to the value of £5,500 were sold at the Centre.

4 FINANCE REPORT

Fr Scully reported that income from bars and catering during the month of October was the highest for two years.

Mrs Allen queried the charge made to the auctioneers for the use of the McNamara Hall for their exhibition. She understood that individual members were charged £1000.00 each. The Chairman undertook to get the information.

5 WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented his written report and statistics. He predicted that the total number of callers for the year will show a reduction, as will the figures for newly arrived immigrants and unprepared immigrants. It is almost impossible to find solutions to the problems presented by 16 and 17 year olds. Few of them are prepared to join YTS. This they must do if they are to qualify for social security benefits. Accommodation is not now so serious a problem because, as a result of the large immigration in 1986/87 many new arrivals have friends here. Proof of identity is now the biggest problem. Documents requested include birth certificate, employment card from Ireland, identity card with photograph. Paul feels that we must upgrade the ability of the Department to give better information on employment. He wants a worker with experience in the employment/career field.

Breda O'Reilly is leaving on 8th December. A replacement with direct employment experience should be recruited now.

An allegation has been made by an MP that Irish people are flying over from Ireland, collecting their Social Security benefits and flying back same day. Fr Scully has been interviewed by news media and expressed serious doubts about the likelihood of such an occurrence.

## 6 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full. Sr Anthony has left St Louise's and will be replaced shortly. An effort is being made to get long stay residents to move out into other accommodation and leave room for the more needy. Over 90% of the residents are in stable employment. Conway House is also full but only about 20% have employment. There are not many long stay residents there because the boys move on of their own accord. A meeting with the local police has taken place. The residents were able to discuss their problems with the police and also hear about problems the police have to encounter. The meeting was considered a success and a football match is being arranged between teams from each side.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the outset Fr Scully complimented and thanked the Chairman for the amount of time he devotes to the Centre and for the marvellous work he does in promoting the interests and the well being of the Centre.

### (a) 51/52 Camden Square

The architect is preparing plans for re-development as living accommodation including flats. The offer to the Irish Hierarchy has not brought any response.

### (b) Air Conditioning - Kennedy/Douglas Hyde Lounges

There are no proper drawings available making it difficult to get an estimate. One contractor has visited the site and another is due shortly.

### (c) Adjacent Land

A representative from Housing Corporation has called and is studying drawings for demarcation lines. The result will decide ownership.

### (d) New Work Initiative

Pete St John is devoting one year to getting better information on emigrants. An effort is being made to develop a computer link between Dublin and London giving information about accommodation, employment, Social Security etc. The Irish Training Agency FAS which runs six monthly courses does not award certificates but are now researching the possibility and planning a link with City and Guilds Training Agency here.

### (e) Fund raising

Arrangements for the Wembley Concert on 4th February next are being completed. There will be 2,600 tickets for sale and we must sell them all.

### (f) Quarterly Meeting of the Council

The meeting planned for 3rd November did not take place because of lack of a quorum. It was decided that the question of future quarterly meetings would be decided at the AGM.

(g) Management

Fr Scully paid a glowing tribute to Mrs D'Arcy who left today. She has given devoted and conscientious service and had decided that now is the time for her to move on. He wished her every success and good fortune in the future. There is now a vacancy for a replacement and efforts are being made to attract a suitable person. One candidate had a preliminary meeting with the Chairman and Director today. Temporary arrangements are being made for the smooth running of the Centre in the meantime.

Margaret will ensure supply of waitresses

Meave will ensure supply of bar staff

Jimmy will look after food.

Ronan will look after cash at week ends.

Fr Cormican will keep a watching brief on all.

Complaints were made as follows:-

- (1) Jumble Sale not advertised
- (2) Guinness in McNamara Hall not good on set dancing night.
- (3) Toilets dirty on same occasion.
- (4) Children have been stealing toilet rolls
- (5) Kennedy Hall under staffed last week.
- (6) Bar staff not properly dressed.
- (7) No spoons in ice-buckets; also ice too lumpy.
- (8) No cleaning on Sunday mornings.

T Mangan and J Myers are carrying out an inspection of the whole premises on Monday.

The Chairman will chase negotiations with Cleaning Contractors and also the question of the deep-clean of the kitchens. The Environmental Health Officer recently inspected the kitchens and found only minor cause for complaint.

8 SOCIAL CLUB

There was no Chairman's report as A Coyle was not present. J Myers reported that A Coyle was unhappy about the advertising being done at present. He also felt some members were not working for the Club as they should. A replacement for th Hon Secretary who has resigned has not been appointed. J Devenney is acting as Secretary pending an appointment.

The Club Annual Dinner/Dance will take place on 16th November. Tickets £10.00 each.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following were appointed to represent the Centre on the London Irish Festival Working Committee:-  
P Keegan, T Mangan, J Murphy, E Nolan.

The question of providing Sunday lunches was deferred for the time being until full arrangements can be made. The meeting was informed that Cecil Sharpe house in Camden is for sale. The question of fixing a hand rail by the stairs from the landing to the Douglas Hyde Lounge will be examined.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Cont'd)

The present Licencees of the McNamara Hall Mrs F D'Arcy and Mr M Moroney retired as Licencees and it was proposed, seconded and duly resolved that Mr T Dunne Chairman of the Administrative Committee and Mr Jim Myers Chairman of the Bars Sub-Committee be appointed Licencees. The Administrator was instructed to put the necessary machinery in motion enabling transfer to take place as soon as possible.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 1988 @ 8.00PM AT THE IRISH CENTRE

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*J. Dunne*  
*Chairman*

*13. 12. 1988*