

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE  
ON TUESDAY JANUARY 11TH, 1983.

PRESENT: P Egan, Fr. Malone, Fr. Butler, T Dunne, Fr. Ryan, S Aherne,  
D Quinn, M Moroney, M Kenny, J Troy, K Fitzsimons, D Daly.

APOLOGIES: P Keegan, Fr. Gordon, P Judge, Canon Woods.

Previous Minutes

on  
The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and/a proposal by T Dunne, seconded  
by D Daly were adopted.

MATTERS ARISING:

Brochure

The draft brochure was to be available before the end of the week ended the 15th  
January. Fr. Malone wanted the brochure vetted for printing.

Action

Fr. Malone is to ring round Committee Members to arrange a meeting.

Bookings

On the Sunday before Christmas a Meeting was held re the booking system. A new  
booking form was agreed. On verbal bookings, the form is sent out to the person  
making the booking for confirmation and return. This should avoid duplicate  
bookings. All those who have booked have been written to so that existing bookings  
can be confirmed.

The Council of Irish Counties wrote to complain re duplicate bookings and have  
sought a meeting with the Administrative Committee. The Irish Centre has sought  
for years to meet the Council. Martin Moroney said a meeting should be held in the  
interest of good relations. The meeting should be used to "sell" the Centre to  
the Council and to convey the Centre's point of view to the Council.

It was felt better to have the meeting before the Council's A.G.M. in February.

Jim Troy complained about double booking.

A deposit requirement of £25 has been incorporated into the new booking form.

Action

Fr. Malone is to write to the Council to say representatives of the Centre will  
be happy to meet them.

Funding Raising Firm:

The meeting was cancelled as Fr. Malone was in Ireland. It is to be re-arranged.

Camden Grant

An application has been submitted for a grant of £45,000. The amount sought having  
been increased in line with inflation.

Fr. Gordon's Night:

Cheques for £390 were received but £100 was returned unpaid with the answer "Drawer  
Deceased".

Hand Dryers etc.:

Have been installed in all toilets.

New Entrance Hall:

The extra work has been done.

Licenses:

The Annual GLC Music & Dance License to the McNamara Hall has been extended to September 1983. The license is renewable every year.

Coffee Machines:

There have been further requests but the Committee remains unkeen.

Users of Hall:

There is a need to know what organisations are booking the facilities - to prevent subversive organisations.

CORRESPONDENCE

Scott Ford, the Valuers have written regarding the site in Murray Mews and 12 Murray Street.

There were asked to enquire re planning permission on Murray Mews. There would not seem to be an objection. Fr. Malone had thought of building a drama centre on the site in the long term. 12 Murray Street cannot be sold until the flats in 51 and 52 Camden Square are built.

The Committee agreed in principle to allow the site to be made available for a drama facility to be built thereon.

Fr. Malone proposed and T Dunne seconded.

The facility would be under the control of the Irish Centre and we would seek to have the building funded by the GLC.

Grand Mess Catering Service:

Fr. Malone is meeting representatives of the service who would advise the Centre on catering systems and facilities.

T Dunne suggested catering equipment could be leased by outside caterers.

Festival:

There is a need to get the legal situation clarified. Accounts are presented too late after the event. The Centre is 50% responsible for the festival. Meeting on the 20th January 1983 at 8.30 p.m. at the Irish Centre of the Festival Council. The representatives of the Irish Centre are D Egan, D Daly, J Troy, S Aherne and Fr. Malone.

DIRECTORS REPORT

On the basis that the premium can be reduced from £8,000 to £3,900 per annum it was agreed on proposal by M Kenny and seconded by M Moroney to change to Aubrey Beatty & Company, Insurance Brokers.



FINANCE & MANAGEMENT:

P Keegan is working on the books.

Fr. Malone's car is deteriorating. He requested approval in principle to spend £2,500 in addition to the trade-in value of £1,000 on the existing car.

D Quinn proposed, D Daly seconded that approval in principle be granted. The motion was carried.

Christmas trade was reasonably successful.

There is £21,000 on the Current Account mostly earmarked to pay creditors.

In addition there is £21,000 in the Development Account mostly not earmarked, awaiting disposal. Some of the Development monies are earmarked for the re-decoration of the Kennedy Hall.

Approval was given to B & I to put in a display stand in the corridor to the McNamara Hall.

A successful meeting was held with Management primarily regarding bookings. Further meetings are scheduled. Stocks are satisfactory.

Fund Raising

Fr. Butler is concentrating on his cycle ride commencing 14th July.

He is writing to all the priests in Ireland looking for their support. A sponsorship grading has been set up, Platinum £400, Gold £300, Silver £200, Bronze £200. The holding around the accompanying caravan is being sold at £100 a square foot.

Fr. Butler's problem is with the Bishops. He got £500 from Bishop Casey. The Bishops are not keen on in church collections in Ireland. The real money is from church collections either in church or at the gates.

Fr. Butler is not convinced that in church collections are out. He feels confident of GAA support. Fr. Malone suggested that Fr. Butler send his explanatory package to the Bishops and ask them for support, especially for permission to hold in church collections and to seek the Bishops support for the Irish Centre when the question comes up at the Bishops Annual Conference in March.

Martin Moroney said the Bishops may support individually but not enbloc. The individual approach is best.

J Troy said a letter should go from each County Association to their respective Bishops.

D Egan said GAA and Comhaltas should be approached.

Fr. Ryan mentioned Muintir na Tire.

D Daly felt that the word "Exile" rather than Emmigrants should be used in correspondence.

Fr. Malone said it would be a good idea for Fr. Butler to work for say three months in Ireland on fund raising.

The Council of Irish Counties A.G.M. will also be used as a platform.

Golf


Tony Beatty is confident of raising £15,000 on the Waterford Association Golf Day on the 28th March.

Social Club - 7<sup>th</sup> 8.30

There was a good New Year's Eve but the crowds were not good.

The Membership drive is going well.

When the Kennedy Hall renovation is complete consideration will be given to transferring the McNamara Sunday Night Band there.

 A discussion on uses for the Kennedy Hall was inconclusive.

It must be multi-purpose. The Cork Association has offered help with the re-decoration. A Mr Madigan will be approached for ideas on interior decor.

WELFARE

The next meeting is on the 12th January 1983. Numbers helped are well up on 1981.

HOSTELSMens:

Numbers up on 1981 though bed spaces down. 1982 was good financially. 90% of the users have no money and have little job prospects. 10% are in trouble with the Police. Long term users are being housed. Drugs are becoming a problem. The building was coming on well although it was behind time. The new building expecting to cost £300,000 is soon to commence. It will take a year. Hostels are still seeking finance from the Housing Corporation for an old peoples residence.

Girls:

Continuously full. 30-40% Irish. There were 30-40 different nationalities in 1982. Final building account has not yet been settled. More staff is needed. D Daly suggested that the Irish Centre hosts a social evening for people at the hostels who sometimes tend to feel socially deprived.

CULTURAL

D Daly hopes to start play reading soon. Possibility that a young Irish worker will bring her work.

YOUTH

Kathleen Fitzsimons attended the meeting of the Federation South of England Youth (between 15 and 26). The following activities have been agreed:

January - Skating

February - Football

March - Quiz

July - Its a Knock Out in Brighton and a camping holiday in Cavan, Laois and Kerry.



/.....

-5-

ANY OTHER BUSINESS :

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 8th February - 8.00 p.m.

*V J Egan*