

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 14TH MARCH 1989

1. PRESENT

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mrs M Allen, Mrs U Cooper, Mrs M Fitzsimons, Miss M Kenny, A Coyle, Mr T Mangan, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O Flynn.

APOLOGIES: Rev G Stack, Mr J Myers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev. D Cormican, P O'Dwyer, P. Keegan
The Chairman, opened the meeting with a welcome to all present especially Mr P O'Dwyer.

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 Mrs M Allen, seconded by C O'Connell.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There have been no developments so far following the meeting which Fr stack had with H.E. Cardinal Hume.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Mr P Keegan presented draft accounts for the year ended 31st December 1988.

Bar sales showed an increase of 5% over 1987 and catering sales were up 18%.

Substantial grants were received from the London Borough of Camden, Irish Government and Council of Irish Counties Associations. A number of smaller grants were also received from some County Associations.

Gaming machines netted over £10,000.00.

Wages were considerably higher than in the previous year. Those for the Welfare Department were up by £21,000.00. There was also an increase in wages for casual catering staff. This was not justified by a corresponding increase in sales. Telephone charges were high, mainly due to calls re repatriation and welfare which were unavoidable. The John Vaughan cup is to be presented to the Laois Association which topped the list of county Associations which made grants to the Centre.

The whole structure of the Irish Centre with regard to welfare and Charity is being looked into. In order to satisfy Charity commissioners the format of Annual Accounts is to be radically altered.

5. WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented a written report. He also presented the Annual report.

The number of clients interviewed during the month of February was less than in the previous year. The chief problems were accommodation, identification, food.

Therese Kennelly has handed in her notice and leaves on 31st March. This means that staff are now two below strength. the vacancy had been advertised but it may be necessary to recruit a locum pending a permanent appointment.

A migrant training scheme is being visualised and may start in June. It would include modern technology including computers. The Chairman thanked Paul and his staff for their efforts and sent good wishes to Therese Kennelly for her future.

6. HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full and the new hostel is nearing completion.

the new DHSS regulations will cause problems to 16 and 17 year olds who will get no DSS benefit unless they are on a Youth Training Scheme. An unsavoury incident happened at Conway House when a man produced a gun and fired shots. He was apprehended and handed over to the police.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) Management

The new Manager has taken up duty. He is enthusiastic, well-experienced and professional. We must all give him total co-operation.

(b) Mrs K Leddy has notified her intention to leave on 30th April. She was invaluable and will be greatly missed.

(c) The Emigration Conference was held in Dublin on 9th March. Overall it was disappointing and did not get much press coverage, even though all political parties were represented. Emigration was accepted by all as a reality and they acknowledged that the doubled grant is still far from enough. The meeting advocated new Centres in Paris, Louvain, Rome and Munich.

The afternoon session was devoted entirely to the problems of prisoners abroad and their families. Cardinal O'Fiach urged that the Irish Government should concur with other governments to allow prisoners to serve their sentences in their native countries.

(d) Bar Licences

The hearing for the bar licence will take place on 21st March. The proposed licensees are T Dunne and J Myers.

(e) The first Sunday lunches were very successful. The music was an added attraction.

(f) The refurbishment of the J F Kennedy Hall is now completed except for laying of new carpet.

(f) Mrs Cooper has contacted some volunteers for the new fund raising committee. Fr Scully has discussed the possibility of fund-raising in Ireland with a supporter there. But we must do our own fund-raising here. A new Committee of members prepared to work hard in co-operation must be formed.

8. SOCIAL CLUB

Anton Coyle queried the position about licences for the social Club and McNamara Hall. The new licence is being applied for on 21st March. If granted it will mean an extra hour when food is supplied. Requests for licence extensions for functions must be made to the Manager who will make the necessary applications.

The decoration of the Douglas Hyde Lounge cannot be undertaken until the roof has been repaired. The new hand driers have been fixed in the toilets. Toilet roll holders and ceilings need repairs. Furniture is still being roughly handled by staff.

Guinness supplied in the Douglas Hyde lounge is below par. Cans of coke, orange etc are being sold at 30p whereas the agreed price is 20p. New price lists should be displayed at eye level where they can be read.

At present there are no musicians in the Douglas Hyde lounge on Sunday mornings and it is a waste of time opening it then.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of the AGM was fixed for 4th May 1989.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks was expressed to Fr Scully for rushing back from Ireland in order to attend the St Patrick's Parade and mass. A video has been done of both and copies can be had from Mrs Allen.

Mrs Cooper complained the the Day Care Centre is often left in a poor condition after meetings

11.

NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 1989 @ 8.00pm

AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. B. 12.4.89