

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 12TH APRIL 1989

1. PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES: Rev G Stack, Fr Gordon, G O'Flynn, M Allen.

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 of Una Cooper, seconded by Tom Mangan.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Tom Mangan stated that his congratulatory message to Mrs U Cooper and N O'Flynn had not been recorded. It was agreed that their contribution in the Day Care Centre deserved recognition. Fr Scully announced the death of James Foran and extended sympathy to his relatives. He would be missed by the friends he had made at lunch daily.

FINANCE REPORT

Presented by Fr Scully. Wembley Concert - deficit £77.00. Average total for first quarter; Lounge takings - increase. Douglas Hyde - decrease. JFK Hall - decrease due to refurbishment. McNamara Hall - increase. Total shows an increase on 1987 and approximately the same as 1988. Catering up £1,000 and increasing. In view of appointment of Manager and Bar Manager. Advantageous - responsible personnel a great asset.

5. WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented report. Statistical evidence that numbers were down in March. Following Easter break the Centre is now busy. Referring to Saturday, he suggested that the Department could close on Saturdays during Winter months. Instead of 4 Social Workers - 3 during this period. This would need approval and opinion of Director. It was agreed to refer to Welfare Advisory Committee.

The Annual Report was circulated in a somewhat sketchy form, it was finalised as a matter of urgency to meet the Irish Emigrant's conference in Dublin deadline for receipt of reports. More publicity needed eg to London Agencies. Fewer referrals from Northern Ireland. On the education and training front Fr Denis Cormican represented Irish Centre at the ALA meeting. Paul stated that publicity should be a priority. Suggested a suitable poster for display and useable at the Irish Festival. The Chairman thanked Paul Murphy and his staff for their efforts. Fr Scully stated that it is important to publicise the role of Irish Centre, in helping youth, re-employment and improve efforts in what can be provided. The difficult years were 1987/88 with influx of ill equipped

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youth. Important to look at relevant areas, liaise with Job Centres and adopt what is necessary. Trainees may be an advantage - to take on and help.

6. HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full. The new Housing Bill came into operation on 15th January. It remains very vague on the transition of hostels from old board and lodgings scheme to come in line with hotels and B&B places where clients receive Income support and Housing Benefit, depending on age and marital status. There is confusion over the extra care allowance necessary for Hostels and could result in decrease of at least £15.00 per week for hostel clients. It is feared that some hostels may be forced to close or seriously reduce the special care they provide. Most of the Conway House residents are unemployed, some in the 16 and 17 year old bracket, who are very vulnerable and whose situation must be closely monitored and evidence of hardships produced to Nicholas Scott's office. The new changes for 16 and 17 year olds seems to apply especially to young people who have been in care and it may be difficult to prove special vulnerability for all young Irish arrivals. Fr Scully reported on a radio interview he had done for Cork radio and said the previous person interviewed had just returned from London and had given a glowing account of his experience, it was difficult to follow him and present a true picture.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7.1 SOCIAL ADVICE WORKER

A temporary has been appointed until 1st October.

7.2 SECRETARY REPLACEMENT

Post advertised few responses. One telephone application - interviewed - considered to have all requirements. Further interviews pending.

7.3 AER LINGUS SPONSORSHIP

Fr Scully reported this was the outcome of long term discussions and ideas put forward in an effort to cater for unskilled youth. There was a possibility of FAS, Camden Council and others joining forces. Various London Borough Councils had agreed to help. The Aer Lingus sponsorship of £40,000 over the two years is a major boost to the project. Considerable field work to be done, setting up courses, word processing and computer skills. Tom Connor providing equipment and FAS have also offered tutors. Extensive investigation needed as to amenities available from Technical Colleges, employers etc and query as to whether students would come. Fr Scully and T Dunne interviewed a girl - discussed the project with her - difficult research, collation and reports. She was willing to accept as a challenge. A college Headmaster would be contacted with a view to discussion and advice. Fr Scully stated that 3 rooms opposite the chapel which included 2

bedrooms and sitting room could be renovated and would accommodate 15-20 students. 20,000 young Irish Leaving Cert students are not provided with further education in Ireland. Aer Lingus recognised the need as did Toyota in 1988 who pledged £15,000 annually. Fr Scully expressed gratitude for these gestures.

Fr Cormican stated that Tommy Dunne's involvement with Aer Lingus was responsible for the Aer Lingus sponsorship. His influence, contact and diplomacy deserves credit. Tommy in reply stated that team work with the Director and Fr Cormican was very satisfying for him.

7.4 BAR LICENCE

Successfully granted to Tommy Dunne and Jim Myers 21/3/89. The Chairman thanked Jim for his time causing great difficulty in his work. Fr Scully expressed thanks to the new licence holders, T Dunne and J Myers.

Licence times 11.00pm Monday - Saturday
10.30pm Sunday.

Extension Friday/Saturday 1.00am McNamara Hall.
No Sunday extension.

7.5 SUNDAY LUNCHES

Lunches were served after St Patrick's Day parade and were considered very satisfactory. Presentation good and the Manager is making every effort to increase interest. Advertising necessary. Leaflets to circulate in catchment area being prepared. The Manager is also preparing a display board.

7.6 KENNEDY HALL

Refurbishment completed. Concern expressed re youth usage. Youth leader aware of probable damage through misuse. Douglas Hyde roof leak repaired. Hall now needs decorating.

7.7 FUND RAISING

Una Cooper taking action. Will report at May meeting. Fr Scully stated that it was regrettable that opportunities were missed eg Car Raffle and Daniel O'Donnell Concert, both should have produced effective results. Telethon 21st April - Gay Byrne presenting - linked to London. Mini marathon and Disco in South London resulting funds being directed to Welfare.

8. SOCIAL CLUB REPORT

Presented by Anton Coyle. March result reasonable £450 profit. Floor cleaning and table cleaning inadequate. Bar staff not co-operating - glass collecting etc. Floor still slippery causing accidents. Fr Denis promised to discuss the matter again with P Keegan. No nominations to date for Social Club Committee. Sunday mornings - poor attendance - background traditional music needed to encourage interest. Bar staff inclined to charge McNamara prices.

Social Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on 18th May 1989 at 8.30pm in Kennedy Hall.

The Chairman stated that it was customary to nominate Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from Administrative Committee requested Anton to seek people suitable for these positions. Jim Myers expressed concern re criticisms within the Social Committee because of rules being flouted and internal bickering.

The Chairman stated that as a Management Committee unless situation altered, we will have to intervene. If members cannot agree and co-operate within the rules, the only alternative would be to take over. He requested Anton to take action, encouraging responsible and interested members to go forward. Next Social Club meeting 3rd May. Anton requested representative from the Administrative Committee at this meeting.

Jim Myers asked whether consideration could be given to opening new reception. Fr Scully stated a receptionist would be needed. this would mean two areas for observation, the Kennedy Hall entrance and Day Care entrance.

The Chairman agreed it was a valid comment, but deferred pro tem C O'Connell asked whether phone cards could be considered. Fr Scully stated that there was a 2 year waiting list.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Catering has improved and should show dividends. Bord Failte reception excellent. The new manager is encouraging business, he needs support. He had meeting with CERT re organisation and professionalism. Fr Denis monitoring purchases, costs etc. At present there is a high turnover with low profits. Net profits must increase.

A letter of thanks received for satisfactory service at wedding reception. Verbal thanks from Carlow Association. Central heating - new maintenance group commencing 17th April. Leak in main tank in McNamara Hall needing urgent attention.

10.

NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 1989 @ 8.00pm

AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. Danne
10-5-89