

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON TUESDAY 11TH JULY 1989

1. PRESENT

Rev T Scully OMI, Rev G Stack, T Dunne, T Mangan, M Allen, E McCormack, J Myers, A Coyle, M Fitzsimons.

APOLOGIES

M O'Mahoney, M Kenny.

IN ATTENDANCE

Paul Murphy

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read. Adopted on the proposal of T Mangan, seconded by M Allen: following correction of error in previous meeting's minutes. They should have read "Apologies from J Myers and the minutes of the meeting prior to that were seconded by M Allen."

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Copies were circulated giving Turn Over for 6 months as against previous Annual Receipts. Average per month for 6 months, no major increase. E McCormack queried Bar Gross Profit Percentage - How often stocktakers check stock etc.,; Fr Scully, replied that stocktaking is done monthly and Gross Profit is 48% - 51%. this is consistent. Stringent controls and action needed. Stock reports crucial. In reply to a query on comparison of prices Chairman replied - Some high, some equal. Brewers consider our pricing is in line with local trade.

The Centre aims to use the Bar, attracting custom during the week. The Manager is making endeavours with success, towards higher bar occupancy. Room for new ideas. Fr Stack queried market for restaurant. The Chairman stated that the first attraction was Sunday Lunches, the Kennedy Hall being out of action. This has caused a loss of functions in all Halls. The Insurance compensation is not yet known.

5. WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented the report for June 1989. This was considered a very demanding month with increased numbers over June 1988. A big increase in female clients, creating a balanced atmosphere when busy. 34 new people were interviewed in one day. Main demands still accommodation and unemployment. A few 17 year olds squatting.

Chairman querying figures asked Paul whether a record is being kept of phone calls. Paul replied approximately 250 calls per month. There were 8,500 enquiries during 1988. Check of calls commenced in May, / it is planned to give a more exact picture. T Dunne asked Paul to present this at their next meeting.

Paul stated that due to transport strike it was difficult to hold staff meetings on Wednesdays. However, the group was working well together.

- 1) On economy Paul asked whether a tree blocking daylight could be lopped, as 4 sets of lights were on all day. To be actioned.
- 2) Top room used as a class room. A leak was fixed but room now needs decorating before class resumes in September. To be actioned.

E McCormack asked how many are employed in Welfare group. Paul replied 5 staff full time and 2 shared with Management and Administration. Little out reach work done, but attendance arranged at meetings where relevant social work was involved.

Fr Scully extended thanks to Paul and his staff. T Mangan stated that Kerry Association had planning permission for second hostel accommodating 37 people. There is accommodation for 21 people in the first hostel. Tel 965 - 9089 for contact. Paul stated we could use for labouring vacancy contact.

6. HOSTELS REPORT

Fr Scully stated that the hostels are full. A meeting had been held due to Roundwood Park regarding an incident that had occurred there and involving Conway House residents. He reported that some had already moved out. It is difficult to guarantee new entrants. There are 12 elderly men in the new hostel with space for 7 more. St Louise's Hostel is fully occupied.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7.1 KENNEDY HALL

Temporary repairs have been carried out. Damage was worse than at first appeared. Fire had affected the ceiling, air conditioning etc.,. The toilets and ceiling will need renewal. Completion of repair work probably will take a further 6 to 8 weeks. Insurance claim difficult re - Building, fixtures, fittings, stock, loss of profit etc.,. Assessment hard to deal with as the hall had just been re - decorated. Harris & Co assessors acting on behalf of the Irish Centre. The cause of the fire is not known. There was a suspicion of malicious intent as no faults were determined in heating system.

In reply to queries by A. Coyle Fr Scully said the present lighting system is temporary and agreed with Anton that wall lighting for effectiveness should be considered for new installation. The Douglas Hyde Hall had 2 bands cancelled already and this is included in th claim. Ventilation in Douglas Hyde Hall is inadequate. Anton requested a temporary fan. Fr Scully will check provision suggesting a connection to main fan to give a constant flow of air. Concern was expressed re loss of revenue in the leisure areas.

7.2 LICENCES

A number of extensions applied for recently were refused. One for Sunday night and one Benefit Dance on a Thursday night. Scotland Yard notified and it appears that our quota is already overlimits, e.g. Club licences - 12; Proprietors licence - 6. Over 40 already issued in one year. Some requests for special licences must go to Scotland Yard. Superintendent Foley and Sergeant Hill met local solicitor to discuss all licences. They suggest one licence for Irish Centre giving automatic extension to 12 midnight. Solicitor actioning.

Presently special licences will be granted only for Jubilee celebrations, 21st Birthdays and Weddings. Social and benefit dances will not get extensions.

Health and Safety Inspectors from Camden inspected the McNamara Hall for new music and dance licence. He found everything in order. After inspection of McNamara Hall Fr Scully asked them to inspect small bar, Douglas Hyde and Kennedy Halls to give opinion re possibility of obtaining general licence for all points. Access generally satisfactory but some alterations needed to 3 steps on back stairs plus double door entering Kennedy Hall from hallway. Fire exits seem satisfactory. They promised to forward application forms and requested floor plans etc., of whole area. Mr Liam Martin will have the necessary plans drawn up.

Approval sought to apply for one licence. Fr Stack advised caution as 3 parishes had been refused a licence. A 12 midnight licence could mean pressure to use and how could you withstand should 2 bars be closed earlier. Customer has every right he thought to go into a private function, this must be clarified. Fr Scully appreciating Fr Stack's advice stated that the Solicitor was checking same. The renewal of licence was due on 5th September. It was considered important that the McNamara Hall extension to lam was maintained. The Chairman asked for approval for discussions which was agreed.

7.3 FESTIVAL

The Festival was considered a fantastic day until 7pm and the incident got high publicity. E McCormack felt it is inevitable with 100,000 people there may be some adverse reaction against police by people who resent authority. Fr Stack queried implication of I.R.B.G. Mary Allen stated, this was a political group and not welcome in the park. They expressed hostile criticism of the police. Police patrol during the day, maintained a friendly relationship.

Fr Stack felt it was not a good advert for the Irish. A letter had been circulated via Bishop Harvey, North London, Bishop Guezzeli, East London to all parishes. A very amicable meeting was held with the Police, on the advice of Cardinal Hume at which the relationship of youth towards Police and Law and Order was discussed. Youth are anti police. T Mangan queried payment to police. E McCormack said this was probably a nominal contribution.

The Chairman stated it is the duty of Festival organisers to ensure security. High security needed around certain areas - Jewish Cemetery, Main Gates and other areas as necessary. Anton Coyle felt perhaps mounted police going through the park could be a provocation. Beer tents should not be stopped. The Chairman stating there was a problem said we are in a no win situation. A small number go in with mal intent.

Fr Stack stated the Irish Centre and the Church were implicated. Priests were being asked to placate and give information and justify without the proper information. We are implicated as recipients. M Allen stating it is a family day. Why can people not go out and enjoy themselves without alcohol. The Festival Committee had taken a courageous decision banning alcohol in the light of some adverse behaviour in previous recent years. The Chairman and Fr Scully recognise it is a problem to be overcome. E McCormack felt there is a high element of second generation Irish police. Why the antagonism. T Mangan suggested calling a Directors Meeting. T Dunne said mounted police were going through crowds peacefully.

7.4 CAR RAFFLE

This did well. £6,000 was made on the day. Fr Scully had been requested to escort the Mayor of Brent. Consequently he could not devote his time and energy to promoting the raffle.

7.5 IRELAND FUNDS

A gentleman from Dublin was interviewing groups. Application forms were submitted but we will not get much money. New equipment for secretarial office applied for.

7.6 NEW PROJECT

Migrant training scheme has 3 rooms now available. One room is a classroom for 10 students, one for the tutor. The classes are held twice weekly and the rooms are considered satisfactory. Kingsway College is responsible for computer programme. They also supplied computers. T Mangan queried renovation. The estimate of cost of same is not yet known.

8. SOCIAL CLUB

Sunday Mornings attendance minimal and is closing down for August. Ventilation is very bad. Swirly fans requested. Fr Scully will investigate. Cleaning programme unsatisfactory. Loss of 2 bands, 2 nights revenue due to the fire incident.

Fr Scully stated satellite T.V. installed. Matches would be shown on Monday nights. It was suggested to use the Douglas Hyde rooms for same on Sundays.

9. FUND RAISING

The Chairman stating it was our duty to feed in suggestions on fund raising. He would welcome ideas for the September meeting. The Car Raffle Committee did fantastic work and he expressed a special vote of thanks to B Murphy and M Kenny. A considerable number of letters of thanks for our work being received and donations were still coming in at a steady rate. Tickets were sent to people throughout Ireland including an Taoiseach and many prominent people and organisations which apart from sales was excellent publicity. The 2,000 Car Raffle was considered, Fr Scully said it needed a high commitment from everyone. Fr Stack's 6 monthly draw was considered a huge success. Anton Coyle said a Wolfe Tone concert would be a worthy consideration for fund raising.

T Dunne stated that we should concentrate on Comhaltas - offer for September 1990. Fr Scully was experiencing difficulty contacting Billy Weir who has now left the Dominion Theatre and is located in the West End.

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10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Myers expressed thanks to Tommy Dunne for attending Fleadh Ceoil. A huge success - 700 in attendance. He would like to get young people involved in the Irish Centre. Perhaps the formation of a Jazz Club with resident musicians. He has got contacts. Jim suggested inviting groups to play on 2 Sundays per month.

T Dunne thanking Jim for this idea stated that Jazz was an acceptable form of entertainment and would attract young people. It was agreed to proceed with the venture. Jim stated that a trio would commence practice on a Friday. Mutual agreement with Anton Coyle regarding the use of the Douglas Hyde on Sunday mornings.

Thanks was expressed to Jim for successful Pre Festival Dance at Shannonside. A profit of £350 was made after paying high expenses for transport and hotel accommodation for group.

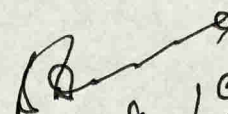
T Mangan queried progress on Receptionist for new Reception Area. Fr Scully reported that B Murphy had manned it for one day. Lay out was not satisfactory. Original plans altered in Fr Scully's absence. Discussion will take place soon concerning suitable alterations to the area.

Mary Allen asked whether the disagreement between waiter and waitress was resolved. The Chairman assured her it had been dealt with.

Mary Allen queried presentation to Breffni O'Reilly in conjunction with C.I.C.A. Mary is to agree mutually convenient date with Breffni. Presentation is to be of Waterford Crystal Decanter.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 1989.

J. B. 
12-9-1989