

## MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9th July, 1991

### **Present:**

T. Dunne, Chairman; J. Myers, Vice Chairman; Rev. D. Cormican, O.M.I.; M. Allen; M. Fitzsimons; M. Kenny; T. Mangan

### **In Attendance:**

J. Reynolds; P. Murphy; Patricia Herbert, Camden Square Neighbourhood Association; John Cawley

### **Apologies:**

E. Mc Cormack; J. Kirby; P. Finucane; C. O'Connell; D. Curley

### **1. Residents / Tenants Associations:**

Patricia Herbert stated that noise had decreased, occasionally problems with high spirited people leaving the Centre late at night. Coaches undisciplined - engines running 12.30pm. Slattery's Coach requested by Fr. Cormican on one occasion to switch off engine while re-loading - co-operated. Patricia commented noise was disruptive at times but appreciated efforts made to control it. Chairman, replying said notices were displayed, endeavours made, Management conscious of the situation. John Cawley - no comments apart from expressing gratitude for participation in Monthly Meetings. Chairman advised no Meeting in August. Fr. Cormican assured representatives situation being monitored and action as necessary would be taken.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Having being circulated these were taken as read, adopted on the proposal of T. Mangan and seconded by M. Kenny.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

None

### **4. Welfare Report:**

Presented by Paul Murphy - copies circulated. Fr. Cormican considered Statistics Chart for circulation to all Committee Members unnecessary. Agreed one copy only for File. New Arrivals - 44% decrease June, 1991; Male - 17% drop to 49%. Employment down due to recession. Increase in non-Irish new callers. Problem interviews increased - Fr. Cormican queried probable reason for this increase - Paul said mostly due to unsatisfactory accommodation and temporary employment only. Re: non-Irish new callers Fr. Cormican advised due to receipt of Grants from DION and Camden Council avoidance of Racist approach and readiness to help Camden Community. Theresa Mc Donagh leaving 7th August - replacement needed. Job contracts needed for David Burke and Anne Rynne (new staff).

Irish Festival - considerable work done, good poster display and liaison work. Chairman said the layout good - thanking staff. Fr. Cormican - access to accommodation, good work done, he would encourage outreach important. He would like to see Irish Centre in the forefront - Admin. Committee supporting.

Chairman thanked Paul and Staff for their efficiency.

### **5. Finance Report:**

Presented by Jim Reynolds. Comparison down on Income £3,500, Expenses down £16,000. More time being taken to pay Creditors. Wage bill down 15% - Casual staff - he had discussion with Pat and Martin.

Chairman noted A.I.B. Covenant 5 years concluded 1991. Letter of thanks sent to the Ambassafor, Andrew O'Rourke - on his appointment to Denmark.

Members of NALGO staff contributing £100 per week for use of Kennedy Hall for meetings - not considered realistic - going rate for discussion. Fr. Cormican said according to Charities Act a reasonable rent should be charged. Irish Players have free accommodation but had put on two plays which were well supported. Jim Myers said standard rate of charge should be implemented. Fr. Cormican suggested letter to Pat O'Dwyer re: items discussed. Concern expressed re: delay in paying Creditors.



Jim Reynolds replied this was working satisfactorily, any problems discussed with Fr. Cormican. Irish Centre Ltd. - Accounts healthy; Charity - Accounts not healthy.

#### 6. Hostels Report:

Conway House busy with callers - 90 in residence. Medway Street Hostel - full. Both Hostels running smoothly. Temporary staff at Conway House including an Oblate Student. Developement at Highgate Road - no progress, planning permission sought by Fr. Carolan, support from neighbours and Camden Council, probably through at A.G.M. First payment from Housing Corporation £300,000 due, successful meeting with Bank of Ireland, total cost £1.1 million, Housing Corporation suggest borrowing. Housing Corporation monitoring Irish Centre Hostels - Fr. Carolan alarmed by some of its contents, John Coote considered it good. No criticism of Management - efficiency perfect. Only criticism since Hostels running well, some changes in day to day running - 24 hour opening suggested, equal opportunities policy not clearly stated. Next meeting of Hostels, Constitution Amendment, Borrowing, Power Ltd., 5 million increase to 10 million. Unrecommended callers not referred elsewhere, maintenance in progress.

#### 7. Directors Report:

His Eminence, Cardinal O'Dalaigh visiting London - Southwark Festival the major event on the invitation of Fr. Mc Veigh, Irish Chaplaincy. Cardinal visiting Irish Centre on Saturday, 13th at 2.30/3.00pm - open invitation to members. Longford Association making him a presentation.

Bank Charges £963 - P. Keegan had written, General Manager visited the Centre - refund on his instruction.

17th July - Migrant Trainees receiving Certificates - Ambassador attending.

Camden Town celebrating Bi-Centenary - Jim Myers in conjunction with C.C.E organising a concert in September, any contributions on cultural aspects welcome - paper cuttings, history of the Irish in Camden, etc.

Re-negotiating terms with Breweries - competitive field in Irish Centre favour. Bass Charrington have re-approached, Courage and Watneys.

Car Raffle to date £21,000 less cost of Car - £6,000/6,500? including VAT. Car winner from Kerry - T. Mangan suggested approach re probable Car sponsorship in 1992 - agreed.

Auditors in at the moment - 2 weeks.

Chairman said Fr. Cormican had worked hard, thanking him and all ticket sellers. £3,000 gift from London Irish Society - 19th June - expressing disappointment due to recession. Charity affected - DION Grant reduced by £6,000; end of Covenant A.I.B.; some generous donations not being repeated. Due to repeat callers overheads increased. Difficulty to keep Charity on the road - £15,000? profit on Car Raffle would barely pay a Social Worker. Christmas Bazaar and Raffle forthcoming. Chairman said it is incumbent to have some idea we can incorporate into a programme. John Coote - Race night in the Autumn; Chairman - Jazz night monthly. Director concerned re: Charity situation; T. Dunne had written to District Councils and Co. Councils in Ireland informing of help given to Counties - awaiting replies.

Missing Persons - B. Duggan experiencing difficulty with D.S.S. Head Office - seeking co-operation. Fr. Cormican had written to Nicholas Scott; Irish in Britain News took up the issue - Tom Larkin had spoken to PRO D.S.S. - problems sorted within 2 hours, service resumed.

T. Mangan queried supervision of Community Services. Fr. Cormican - replying - no cash given out, food vouchers strictly monitored, expenditure reported on a weekly basis, expenditure, wages, telephone bills monitored. Breakdown of calls - Irish calls expensive. Repatriations - only if finances raised from some source.



**8. Social Club Report:**

Problems with a Pool Table. Weekend takings increase; needs re-organisation; bands expensive. Jumble Sale realised £219 - (M. Kenny collecting for Christmas Bazaar.

**9. Annual General Meeting:**

A.G.M. on 10th September in Kennedy Hall at 8.00pm. Report on 15 month Financial Year.

**10. Any Other Business:**


J. Myers queried lack of progress on appointment of PRO as per previous months minutes. Chairman - Action Promotion of Business. Bar Manager making good progress - good personality - creating a friendly atmosphere. Pat O'Dwyer encouraging business - making strenuous efforts. Efforts to be made to secure a folding Pool Table to occupy less space when not in use.

T. Mangan proposed a vote of sympathy to Nellie Geraghty's relatives - she had worked at the Centre for many years.

Good wishes extended to Mrs. Mangan.

Jim Myers expressed thanks to T. Dunne for his stamina. Tommy, accepting, expressed thanks to Fr. Cormican, the Irish Festival Committee, Mary Allen - Co-ordinator.

No meeting in August. Next meeting - A.G.M. - on 10th September, 1991 at 8.00pm.

  
8/10/91