

MINUTES OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 8th October, 1991

Present:

Rev. D. Cormican, OMI; J. Myers; M. Allen; M. Fitzsimons; M. Kenny; T. Mangan; U. Cooper; M. O'Boyle; D. Curley

1. In Attendance:

J. Reynolds; P. Murphy; J. Cawley; Camden Square Neighbourhood Association

Apologies:

T. Dunne; E. Mc Cormack; J. Kirby; M. Mc Cormack

- 1a Residents/Tenants Association - John Cawley said that a Party at No. 1 Camden Square on 28th September, 1991 had continued noisily until 6.00am - no connection with Irish Centre.

A meeting had been held at the Irish Centre re: teenagers assembling around Camden Square. It was a worthwhile meeting but recently numbers gathering there had reduced considerably - no further comments.

2. Minutes of previous meeting having been circulated, accepted as read, adopted on the proposal of M. Allen, seconded by M. Kenny

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Election of Officers:

A letter from T. Dunne, read by M. Allen, declaring his willingness to be nominated for Chairman, with an assurance he would continue to work for the benefit of the Irish Centre.

Chairman - T. Dunne, proposed by T. Mangan, seconded by J. Myers
Nomination closed on the proposal and seconding of the above

Vice Chairman - J. Myers proposed by T. Mangan, seconded by M. Allen
Nominations closed, proposed by T. Mangan, seconded by M. O'Boyle

Secretary - M. Allen proposed by U. Cooper, seconded by T. Mangan
M. Fitzsimons proposed by M. Allen, declined

Assistant Secretary - M. Fitzsimons proposed by M. Allen, seconded by J. Myers

Treasurer - Fr. D. Cormican automatically elected

Co-options - Two Committee members M. Mc Cormack, U. Cooper. Votes were void at AGM as non voting delegates had seconded nominations - L. Dunning (Offaly) E. Nolan (Dublin).

J. Myers proposed co-option of U. Cooper at this meeting, seconded by T. Mangan.
M. Mc Cormack's willingness to be co-opted to be discussed with her as she was not in attendance at this meeting.

As per Agenda, Mr. M. Forde had expressed a wish to be involved, as he is Chairman of Irish Centre Hostels. It was agreed to await M. Mc Cormack's decision.

Director - Fr. Cormican re-appointed by approval

5. Welfare Report:

Monthly Report presented by Paul Murphy, copies circulated. No rush of migrants. Increase in homeless families seeking accommodation. Minister for Labour presenting response for DION Committee, 1,000 emigrated in 1991. Homeless and travelling families increase, they have to be sent for social inquiry. Community Centre now well staffed. Paul expressed concern re: thefts.

M. Allen had a phone call - 5 office desks available. Jim Reynolds expressed interest in lockable drawers. M. Allen to pursue, desk would have to be collected. T. Mangan stated vacancies in both Kerry Hostels. J. Myers thanked Paul and his staff for their hard work.

6. Hostels Report:

St. Louise, Medway Street full; Conway House have a few vacancies. Signing over property Kentish Town due today. Some set-back. If not completed in current week Housing Corporation withdraw fund allocation £920,000.

7. Directors Report:

Fr. Cormican referring to item 7.1 Irish Centre Limited in Agenda informed members that I.C. Ltd. was set up in November, 1989. There are five Directors. J. Reynolds (Treasurer) is Secretary. Meetings are held from time to time. An AGM prior to I.C. AGM. J. Reynolds responded that a 5 monthly A/c 1st April - 31st August was prepared for Inspector of Taxes. Situation not good, a loss of £2,500 - £3,000 monthly. Managers did not have cost control. Wages and buying costs high, stock quantities taken in August - security difficult. The only answer would be to pressurise Managers to control costs. Managers (Catering & Bar) have to justify weekly. A control book is being held. Indirect expenses £53,000, incidentals etc. Gross Profit 20.5% only which is excessively low.

T. Mangan commented that 2 employees were manning the Counties Bar - few customers on the floor at times. He queried whether the Community Centre is staff overloaded. J. Reynolds expressed concern re: low turnover, cash flow down - one week £2,500 down. The only solution was efforts to increase turnover and slash costs.

M. Allen had received complaints re: poor quality beer and Guinness. J. Smiths bitter - most complaints. Fr. Cormican stated that negotiations with Breweries re: discount were on going - 2 companies now amalgamated. Charringtons withdrew 1990 - have now returned with competitive offer. All areas are being looked at. Fr. said overheads are difficult to control - gas, electricity, cleaning costs. Catering & Bar Managers now report weekly to T. Dunne, J. Coote, Fr. Cormican. Activities being monitored. T. Mangan stated Franchise could be an alternative consideration - Lord Forte's advice sought - no active progress. M. Allen queried high wages £69,000 for time stated - Treasurer said 1990 could not reconcile what had gone to I.R.

Fr. Cormican a deed of covenant existed between I. Centre Ltd. and Community Services. The only joint cost is telephone. M. O'Boyle queried cleaning costs. Contractors £1,500 per month. Treasurers advice - reduce costs. D. Curley queried cancellations and whether deposits were retained - six cancelled weddings. J. Myers stated the need to see the Centre and the great need for a P.R.O. In clarification of Ltd. Fr. Cormican reported that Inland Revenue have now gone back to 1987 and requested £23,000 tax. Now a settlement has been agreed £15,000. Monthly instalments over a two year period. Auditors advice - not advisable to contest.

7.2 Irish Centre Charity - Fr. Cormican stated staffing levels in Welfare same as 1990. An increase of interviews, more work - homeless families. Complemented staff on their generosity. They cannot process until 5.30pm - then await the arrival of Emergency Officer from Camden. One member can work until 9.00/9.30pm. Continuing Fr. Cormican said it is important they attend meetings relevant to their work and contacts. DION Grant - figures sent to Dublin may have been changed. Authorities decided to allocate funds differently, probably reduce, Dion Committee would only be concerned with new emigrants.

4 Social Workers at I. Centre Community Services paid by DION. If grant reduced this would mean losing one. Camden Council's Grant was 9.8 million, now 8.8 million to them. 5% increase received from Camden. donations down. London Irish Society £10,000 in 1989, £3,000 in 1990. Car Raffle less £23,000 down to £21,000. Waiting for London Irish Festival Allocation. A meeting is being arranged. Day Centre going well. Coach outing to Leigh-on-Sea on Wednesday.

8. Social Club:

T. Mangan / M. Kenny - running well. Complaints re: bar prices and lack of pool table. Bands expensive and inexpensive - following dependant on popularity of band. Request to increase entrance fee - decision to postpone until 1992. Door man needed. Thefts causing concern. Efforts made to keep doors locked. Restriction on Key Holders, who should sign for on receipt and again on handing back.

Appointment of 4 members to L.I.F. Committee. M. Allen proposed - appointment in block John Murphy, Jim Kirby, Jim Myers, Declan Curley. All 4 members valuable contributors. Agreed.

9. Any other business:

Tom Mangan queried constitution rules re: number of Committee. Lay members constitution not available at AGM - Rules read out by Fr. Cormican - 8 members. M. Fitzsimons queried reason for not including the Irish World in advertising - following a phone call from Paddy Cowan. Irish Post criticised for non-inclusion of C.A.C.A. members attending Federation of Irish Societies inauguration of Therese Kennedy. Members felt affiliation to Federation not of any help. Fr. Cormican stated it is important to be members of the Federation for sub committee of Community Care. It is important to keep in contact with other services - Federation a national organisation. C.I.C.A. London based, considered of much greater benefit. Considerable grants given to Welfare.

10. Monthly Meetings - second Tuesday;

Next Meeting - 12th November, 1991

J. D. ... * 12/11/91