

LONDON IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING  
HELD ON 9TH JUNE 1992.

PRESENT: J. Myers, Acting Chairman, Fr.D. Cormican O.M.I.  
Director, M. Allen, E. McCormack, M. McCormack,  
T. Mangan, M. Kenny, M. O'Boyle and M. Fitzsimons.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Reynolds, P. Murphy.

APOLOGIES: T. Dunne and Una Cooper.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting, were read by M. Allen, adopted on the proposal of E. McCormack seconded by M. Kenny.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

E. McCormack requested clarification of "Executive Committee Manager" (P.3) Fr. Cormican, T. Dunne, J. Myers, M. Allen. Latter members J. Myers, M. Allen, - not managing - delete and amended as agreed.

Eddie McCormack expressed concern regarding necessity and future of Administrative Committee.

(1) Sadly abused.

(2) Not Contributing.

(3) No powers.

We must look to the future, suggestion: Alteration of monthly meeting of Trustees. Director's of Centre report to Trustees. This should be dealt with prior to the A.G.M. Any change in the Constitution - motion to A.G.M. One Trustee only - Dr. L. Morton attends. Trustees must look at the legal aspects. Fr. Cormican said two Trustees retiring. The Chairman replied this will be dealt with in the Agenda.

E. McCormack - This Committee has no power, no strength, no regular attendance in fact "a shambles" cannot see whether there is any contribution being made. Committee achieving nothing. T. Mangan, stated he had "done his bit" down the years.

M. McCormack agreeing with E. McCormack stated that the Committee had "No Business Clout". J. Myers said that he would contribute for the benefit of the Irish Centre, even if not a committee member.

E. McCormack - Committee loose. Fr. Cormican, In his experience responsibility on Director colossal, if he wants to make a decision - he is criticised if not discussed with the Committee.

Two meetings of the Council Irish Centre, people exercising authority without responsibility. Constitution needs to be re-drafted - an approach to an Irish Solicitor at one stage realised nothing. We need to look forward, having a very hard look at the whole structure of the Centre.

T Mangan: Nothing can be done without consultation with Council and Bodies. J. Myers: We should not wait until September. E. McCormack: it can be done, we do not have a common Solicitor to refer to for advice and support, policy wrong. Fr. Cormican: A Solicitor rang willing to help in Criminal proceedings only.

## 2(A) CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from Residents Association regarding vandals in the area 1991, D. Grace enclosing a letter received from B. Hughes, Camden.

Fr. Cormican said it is important to set up a meeting with local residents. Fr. Cormican/M. Allen - Action.

## 3. WELFARE REPORT

P. Murphy: Monthly statistics circulated, figures showing a parity with 1991.

Review day held. Welfare Advisory Meeting, Una Barry, Centrepoint Facilitator, aims and objectives of Irish Centre outlined.

Suggestions: Previous reticence - to have individual supervision of staff in addition to staff meeting, to boost staff confidence. Particular concern expressed, regarding work funding picture and its weight on Director. Paul was elected Community Care Officer at A.G.M. of Federation of Irish Societies. Congratulations extended to Paul. Lack of co-operation from the Department of Social Security, being experienced by Brian Duggan. Co-Ordinated effort being sought with Salvation Army. Fr. Cormican had written to Nicholas Scott Social Services Minister. Appreciation expressed to Brian Duggan for his efforts.

## 4. HOSTELS REPORT: None.

E. McCormack, Why an item at this meeting? Fr. Cormican replied, It is part of the Irish Centre, a unique relationship exists between Hostel's and the Irish Centre. E. McCormack requested a conducted tour of the Irish Centre including the Welfare Department.



## 5. FINANCE REPORT

J. Reynolds - monthly cash flow, deficit this year - Budget 1993. E. McCormack asked if we are getting a copy of Budget, Irish Centre Ltd, and Welfare - whether we are retaining some staff. Fr. Cormican: one of the reasons for a Review Day organised at his request.

T. Mangan - number of staff, six, Salaries £100,000.00 including pensions. J. Reynolds said salaries maintained by D.I.O.N. grant and Camden Council grant. Oblate loan repayment: £42,000 per year. Salaries a drain, expenses, travel vouchers etc. Repatriation comes back to us.

Charity situation - £21,500, since March deficit despite £23,000 from Camden Council. Salaries £8,750 per month plus pension loan. P.A.Y.E. due, pensions due £32,500 paid out Charity resources low. Charity £16,500 in Bank, accounts not ready. Cash situation - day to day. Bank phoned. A need for someone to take over Bar and Catering. We continue to be short of cash £10,000 V.A.T. to be paid out the end of June. Gas & Electricity £2,000 for one month. We are on a knife edge stated Jim Reynolds - slight trading improvement, but expenses high. He offered to send accounts in post. T. Mangan proposed against - seconded by M. Allen, agreed.

E. McCormack unhappy with Charity side, recommending cutting staff and expenses. Fr. Cormican: Camden Council pays for one Social Worker, D.I.O.N. grant pays for four. D.I.O.N. grant towards staff only, never towards running costs. 1991 cut £9,000 grant, and a further cut in 1992, no staff received an inflation increase.

Regarding staff monitoring - June traditionally busy, not happening this year, or significantly in 1991. Suggested: Make one staff member redundant e.g. Last Social Worker.

Fr. Cormican continued - Review of operation not happy, Superseded by other agencies Safe Start, Hammersmith Brent Irish Society. Irish Women's Centre set up. Women using Irish Centre has increased.

Irish Centre since foundation, responding to needs a dangerous way to run a business. We need to determine what service we are going to provide, we are not in the business of "lame ducks" service.

E. McCormack: Welfare advisory service - meeting monthly, two monthly functions to advise co-ordination, direction, efficiency and direction of Welfare.

Fr. Cormican: New Welfare Advisory Committee has some useful people including a Doctor recommended by M. O' Boyle. J. Reynolds: Time is not on our side. Financial situation is driving us to take decisions. We need a fund raising day to clear the loan of £42,000 a year. There are no reserves to repair property. Fr. Cormican: People involved in caring there is a danger. Client/Patient can become a self fulfilling role. Doctor may need patients rather than reverse.

T. Mangan: Bar staff minimally occupied. E. McCormack: Control and management should solve this problem. Bringing in Saxon Inns is not going to solve this problem, it will still exist. Forceful management is needed.

J. Myers reminded members that Fr. Cormican has been working in the Bar since the Bar Manager left. He expressed appreciation for this and the fact that J. Reynolds attended every month.

Finance Report situation:

Creditors - March 1992.

Trading Company:	£58,200.00
Irish Centre Charity:	£25,500.00
	£83,700.00

Deposits. P.A.Y.E.

Cash at Bank:	£70,000.00
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Deficiency: £14,000.00 - on liquid working capital.

Fr. Cormican - Irish Centre and Welfare two separate entities.

#### 6. DIRECTORS REPORT:

Irish Centre Charity - Car Raffle important. Tremendous work done by B. Murphy in co-operation with Bord Failte 90,000 tickets circulated. Returns in £360.00. Have been to Churches and Ruislip - ticket sellers needed, responsibility of the Committee to find one ticket seller. £26,000.00 raised in 1991, hope to increase this, needs a lot of co-operation and help. B. Murphy has no direct commitment to the Irish Centre - just goodwill.



Second Council of Irish Centre, regarding convened meeting, constructive, moving in right direction. Constructive approach of D. Egan and C.I.C.A. in assisting us, we need to appoint one person for negotiating team. Someone outside the Administrative Committee or Board of Directors. M. Allen proposed F. D'Arcy - as a catering representative - past Secretary and latterly Catering Manager Irish Centre. Now Manager of Charrington's Baker Street, following intense training. Fr. Cormican - from her knowledge, may have some input. Proposal seconded by M. McCormack, agreed on a show of hands, some abstainers.

T. Mangan queried, John Coote's contribution on the Panel: It was agreed he is an important financial adviser.

M. Allen - Re: F. D'Arcy - she has to be approached.

Fr. Cormican. negotiating team need a meeting - A third Company. Michael G. Rooms, Willesden interested plus Oliver Clancy. Advertisement appearing in Morning Advertiser Friday and Monday. Another gentleman, ex-employee of Saxon Inns, Peter Rossiter, doing research into Saxon Inns.

J. Myers, unjust animosity towards John Coote, a voluntary contribution twice weekly. He is a great asset. Fr. Cormican in support of J. Coote, said he is experienced and able - remain on panel all agreed.

Two Trustees retiring - Two needed to replace J. Caulfield and Dr. L. Morton. One replacement, Lord Farnham, who has responsibility for looking after different Charities e.g. St. Patrick's Benevolent Fund. He has visited and would be delighted. Peter Fitzpatrick interested. Solicitor suggests changing all Trustees but changing very expensive. Discussed with T. Dunne - suggest we write to Lord Longford, who can continue as President. Two other Trustees needed. Known names. E. McCormack:- Trustees should attend at least quarterly - have never attended.


7. SOCIAL CLUB:

Annual General Meeting and subsequent meeting. New Chairman J.J. O'Brien, Secretary Mona Ward, Band Secretary T. Dack and Vice-Chairman T. Mangan.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Matters for Annual General Meeting include in July meeting. There being no further business relevant, Chairman closed proceedings 10.35p.m.

Date of next meeting 14th July 1992.

 14.7.92