

MINUTES MEETING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE

Tuesday 13 September 1983.

Present: Fr. Malone, Fr. Gordon, Fr. Fullam, D. Egan, M. Moroney, D. Daly,
M. Kenny, D. Quinn.

In Attendance: D. Ambrose

Apologies: T. Dunne, F. Aherne, J. Troy, Sr. Anne Marie, P. Judge

REPORTS:

- (1) P. Keegan presented the unaudited Accounts for the 6 months to June 1983.

The expected turnover for the year ended December to be the same as for 1982.

Gross profit margins had improved.

Interest had increased due to capitalisation.

Trading loss for the six months before interest and taking grants into account was £17,000.

Discussions followed on re-ordering profit and loss figures to reflect the grants properly e.g. the repairs and maintenance charge of £19,239 in 1982 should have referred to the £5,000 Preservation Grant received during the year.

The main message from the Accounts was that turnover should be increased.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Keegan.

- (2) Social Committee - Anton Coyle reporting

Functions were improving. The Committee is experimenting with different types of groups and bands but was inhibited in its immediate plans by the proposed renovations of the Kennedy and Douglas Hyde lounges. Renovation of the latter will take 3½ weeks.

Raffles and entrance fees are beginning to cover band costs.

The membership position and fees are to be considered.

Procedures must accord with legal requirements. Membership Cards are essential.

On a proposal by Fr. Malone, seconded by D. Daly it was decided to hold an extraordinary AGM to revise membership fees and institute a system where fees will be reduced but members will pay a cover charge to functions.

Fr. Malone proposed and D. Egan seconded a vote of thanks to the Social Committee and to the Sunday night ceili group.

- (3) Youth: Kathleen Fitzsimons reporting

The Youth Group commenced activities on 8 May 1983 and a calendar of meetings and events was announced.

178 people have applied for membership.

The Group is in need of a meeting place with snooker, table-tennis etc.

D. Ambrose suggested that the Diocesan surveyor be approached as there were three underutilised halls in the local parish.

Fr. Malone described plans to convert the basement into a day care centre for the elderly. It could also be used as premises for the youth.

On a proposal by D. Daly, seconded by M. Kenny, it was resolved that a feasibility study be conducted for conversion of basement into dual use and to ascertain availability of grants.

Fr. Malone requested that the youth club look at the Centre's disco equipment and rehabilitate it if possible.

A vote of thanks was expressed to K. Fitzsimons.

(4) Welfare

Sr. Anne Marie is to be asked to obtain welfare reports and present them to the Administrative Committee on a monthly basis.

It is necessary to confirm the appointment of the members of the welfare sub-committee.

CYCLE RIDE

The Chairman requested that the sincere thanks of himself and the Committee be recorded and conveyed to Fr. Butler for his cycle ride. Also to the team who accompanied him especially D. Daly, M. Kenny, Martin and Teresa Doyle with special thanks to Mary Kenny who drove the caravan.

Fr. Butler's initiative was a turning point in the future of the Centre.

A letter of thanks to Fr. Butler from the Embassy was read.

To date £50,000 Sterling had been banked and there was IR£20,000 to come.

D. Daly and M. Moroneys' proposal that a letter of gratitude be sent to the Irish Post and the Universe for their publicity and help.

It is important to use the money to best advantage and negotiations are in train with Murphys and the Bank.

MINUTES JULY MEETING

On a proposal by M. Kenny, seconded by D. Daly, the July minutes were adopted.

MINUTES INFORMAL AUGUST MEETING

The Centre is to advertise for a manager who will be paid on an incentive basis. In the interim Mrs. D'Arcy will act as manager. It will be necessary to draw up a detailed job specification. The worth of advertising the job in the Morning Advertiser and Irish Post was queried. D. Ambrose is to advise of the best place to advertise but it was felt politic to advertise in any event in the above papers.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was a meeting with our solicitor to discuss the Constitution. The solicitors advised that the Constitution probably relieves Committee members of personal liability but Trustees could sue Committee members. The members could probably in that event sue the Centre's former solicitor on the basis that they had not been advised of possible personal liability. Our solicitor is to take steps to keep options open with regard to suing our former solicitor as any action against him will become statute barred next month.

A motion of thanks proposed by Fr. Malone seconded by D. Daly was passed to Fr. Gordon who raised £200 for the Centre from his recent Kickham production in Tipperary.

The GLC has advised that the Centre is in breach of the McNamara license now up for renewal.

There are two objections from local residents to renewal.

The present license is limiting and our solicitor is seeking to extend the terms.

A letter from Fr. Butler was read recording his visit to the grave of Fr. McNamara in Ireland, thanking the team who accompanied him, expressing the incongruity of the term Irish Centre Community Services and questioning the roles of Fr. Gilmore as Chairman of the Welfare Sub-Committee and Mr. Caulfield as Chairman of Irish Centre Hostels in view of their connection with the IRBG and INC Associations.

The letter queried the high wages being paid by the Centre and the need for a receptionist and book-keeper.

It was decided that D. Daly would acknowledge Fr. Butler's letter and that she invite Fr. Butler to discuss the letter with the Chairman and herself.

PROPOSED SEMINAR

Deferred in view of

- (a) negotiations with creditors
- (b) results of cycle ride not fully to hand
- (c) unclear constitutional position

FUND RAISING

A sponsored thank you to Fr. Butler will be used as a fund raising launch and to clarify conflicting rumours re the future of the Irish Centre.
Tentative date end of October.

The meeting closed at 11.05 p.m.
Date of next meeting Tuesday, 11 October.