

Present: Fr. Malone, D. Egan, M. Moroney, D. Daly, M. Kenny, T. Dunne, F. Aherne,
T. Judge, D. Quinn.

In Attendance: Fr. Butler, D. Ambrose

Apologies: Sr. Anne Marie, J. Troy.

Minutes September Meeting

On proposal by Martin Moroney, seconded by Mary Kenny the September Minutes were adopted.

Matters Arising

The positions of Frs. Malone and Butler at The Centre and the recruitment of a manager were discussed at length. Both matters were referred back to the executive for further consideration.

Correspondence

A letter from the Irish Government requesting that it be consulted in any decision regarding closure of The Centre. A letter from the solicitors confirming that The Centre's properties - freehold and leasehold - are vested in the Trustees.

The licences continue to cause difficulty.

A brief welfare report for September was handed out.

A letter from the Leitrim Association expressing concern regarding The Centre's fund-raising efforts and proposing a public meeting to continue the momentum created by Fr. Butler's cycle ride.

A letter from Fr. Butler regarding an entry for The Irish Centre in a Camden Council publication.

Finance

Archbishop Cunnane handed Fr. Malone a cheque for IR£20,409 from the Tuam Archdiocesan collection. Bishop Casey was visited. To date IR£100,000 has been collected.

Negotiations remain outstanding with creditors.

The brewery loans remain unattended.

Our accountant, Mr. Beatty, continues to take an intense interest in The Centre.

Fr. Butler was again thanked by the Committee for his cycle ride.

A grant from Camden of £32,000 has been passed.

Refurbishments to the Kennedy Hall will cost £10,000.

The Brent Irish Centre in Salisbury Road, Kilburn, will be established in two years time following which the future of The Irish Centre must be in doubt.

Fr. Butler said that a 100% grant was available to convert the unused upper part of The Centre into hostel accommodation and the lower part into youth/geriatric use.

M. Moroney suggested that Liam Martin prepare an outline plan with which to approach the Council for grants and that Richard Mark be consulted.

The Chairman felt that Fr. Butler, D. Daly, Fr. Malone and himself should form a sub Committee to start the ball rolling.

Fund-Raising

The publicity campaign should be intensified.

An open meeting will require to be called.

Fr. Butler's "thank you" is still regarded as the automatic launching pad but the sponsor for the event has still not given the final go ahead.

It was decided to push ahead with the open meeting on Sunday, November 20th.

Other Points

Fr. Butler expressed disappointment with the Kennedy refurbishment.

He felt that some of the functions performed at No. 50 were alien to the ideals of The Centre citing literacy, marriage advice as examples.

David Ambrose felt that the Committee should decide what The Centre and the Welfare Department were all about.

The Chairman invited the Committee to take the following topics:

Pastoral,
Cultural,
Social,
Welfare

and submit papers on topics of interest to him. The relevant sub Committees would also be consulted.

A meeting was arranged for Monday 31 October at 8.00 p.m. to discuss the papers and finalise the forum for the open meeting on November 20th.

Fr. Butler thanked the Committee for supporting his cycle ride, the team who accompanied him, Aer Lingus and B & I and those who supplied accommodation and food. Fr. Butler sees another cycle ride as a means of fund raising.

Bishop Harty has approached Fr. Butler to launch a £1,000 scheme where people would be approached to give £1,000 interest free loans.

It was felt that Cardinal Hume should be approached to allow a diocesan collection. Fr. Butler feels money is there for the asking but that over the years the Committee did not provide impetus and inspiration and that the Committee's enthusiasm was needed.

He feels sufficient could be raised in 2 years.

M. Moroney felt that any fund-raising drive must be led by a priest.

There was a discussion on the formation of a fund-raising sub Committee. M. Moroney and M. Kenny would with Fr. Butler commence the Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.10 p.m..

The next monthly meeting of the Administrative Committee will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8th at The Centre.