

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 15th APRIL, 1985

PRESENT

T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Mrs. E. Kehoe, Miss M. Kenny,
A. Coyle, J. Davis, P. Judge, J. Kennedy, M. Moroney,
G. O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES

Fr. J. Fullam, Fr. J. Gordon, T. Mangan.

IN ATTENDANCE

Fr. O. Barry, O.M.I.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by J. Davis, seconded by P. Judge.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

DIRECTORS REPORT

a. Breweries

A meeting with representatives of the Breweries has been arranged to take place on 26th April. The Bank of Ireland has been advised of our proposals which will be discussed at that meeting.

b. Grants

Unofficially we have heard that our application for an Urban Aid Grant has been unsuccessful, apparently because of Government strictures. Our application was rated third of six. Only two were approved.

Application is to be made immediately for inclusion in next year's list.

c. Youth

As a result of the failure of our application for an Urban Aid Grant, refurbishing of the section earmarked as a Day Care Centre for the elderly and as a Youth Centre cannot now proceed. Consequently the youth group will have to full in whenever space is available.

The group is active and Miss K. Fitzsimons works very hard with them. Last year through their own efforts they raised £1,384 and made several grants to deserving Charities. They are grateful for the grant of £200.00 paid to them to help the expenses of their two representatives sent to Rome for the International Youth Festival. £100.00 of this was recovered from a sponsor who wishes to remain anonymous. We shall continue to give them as much help as possible.

The group must have its own Constitution and this is now being prepared.

1. Management

After raising some queries which were resolved to her satisfaction, Mrs. D'Arcy has accepted the position of Manager and the contract has been signed. Mrs. D'Arcy and M. Moroney will now be co-licensees of the McNamara Hall which has a Restaurant Licence. Conditions are that functions must be pre-booked and drinks must only be served at tables. Casual admissions will not be allowed. Special extension can be arranged to 1.00 a.m. weekdays, midnight on Sunday.

This licence now needs up-dating and the hearing is fixed for 30th April, 1985. We will be represented by T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, Mrs. D'Arcy and M. Moroney.

Prior to that an examination of the premises is scheduled for 26th April, 1985.

2. Welfare

1. Hostels

The A.G.M. of Irish Centre Hostels Limited which took place on 1st April, revealed a very satisfactory state of affairs. Both hostels are being ran to maximum capacity and efficiency and a vote of thanks to both managements was heartily approved. An effort is to be made to enrol more share-holder members in an effort to impress the Housing Corporation.

The D.D.E. has approved a grant of £500,000 to development of the new site. There is a possibility that the house and ground next to this can be bought freehold and empty for £80,000. It should be possible to develop a recreation area at the rear of the properties. Refabricated buildings have already been ordered for housing billiard tables etc.

2. Episcopal Conference

The Irish Episcopal Conference was held at Dublin last week as were several other meetings recently dealing with emigration. Fr. Gilmore, Fr. Ryan, Fr. Barry and Seamus Taylor were among the speakers who emphasised the rights of migrating peoples as well as the great difficulties now being experienced here regarding work and accommodation. They emphasised that the "official" figures released in Dublin for unemployed people coming to this country were very much played down.

They also emphasised that it is more important than ever that anyone coming here should have some money, pre-arranged digs and if at all possible a job arranged. New regulations coming into force here will limit the conditions for payments available from DHSS and also the amounts.

Directors Report Contd.

3. Welfare Report

The Annual Welfare Report for 1984 is now available. It shows a considerable increase in work load with the numbers of first-time applicants being almost double those of the previous year. Congratulations are due to the authors of the report.

4. Social Worker

Miss C. Doherty has terminated her employment with the Welfare Department. Advertisements have been placed for a replacement who need not necessarily be qualified. It looks as if the hostels will require a welfare/social worker full time.

f. Accounts

The accounts for 1984 have now been finalised and will be available at the A.G.M. on 9th May.

g. Fund Raising

The next meeting will take place on 21st April. A project for the sale of surplus Marks and Spencers goods at written down prices, is to be proposed. Mrs. Spensley is prepared to operate the scheme with the help of the Committee. 20% of the proceeds will come to the Irish Centre.

T. Dunne, Mrs. E. Kehoe, Miss M. Kenny and G. O'Flynn of the Administrative Committee volunteered to help.

Another suggestion proposed, better use be made of the McNamara Hall on Sunday nights, catering especially for young people.

h. A.G.M.

The A.G.M. is scheduled to take place on 9th May, 1985. The relevant notices etc are now being sent to member bodies.

It was decided to request the Lord President to nominate T. Dunne, Mrs. E Kehoe, A. Coyle and a representative of the Bank of Ireland. Fr. Malone will ascertain who this will be.

i. Trustee

It was decided to nominate T. Dunne for the vacant position.

LONDON IRISH FESTIVAL

Fr. Malone has not had an opportunity to query the appointment of the Secretary of the Festival Working Committee.

Continuation Sheet 4.

London Irish Festival Contd.

The video recording shown on Channel 4 was good to a point but naturally a lot had to be omitted. It was unfortunate that the Irish Centre did not get some acknowledgement.

It was suggested that a video covering 30 years of Irish Centre life should be recorded for transmission on Channel 4. It was made clear that the final product must have the full approval of the Administrative Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman of the Club Committee (A. Coyle) raised a number of points as follows:-

1. The television set in the small bar is sub-standard and should be replaced with an up-to-date set with remote control.
2. There are no first aid kits on the premises.
3. Dirty bottles have often been served to customers.
4. The small fan in the small bar is not working.
5. Carpet needs to be glued down.
6. A taste and or smell of washing up liquid is sometimes discernible from glasses.
7. Sunday mornings returns have increased considerably. 50% of outlay is now being recovered.
8. Bar staffing on Sunday mornings is insufficient. suggest small bar is open.
9. Wastes for handbasins in toilets are inefficient.
10. Some adult control must be present at youth meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th April, 1985.

J. Dunning
30.4.85