

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 8th OCTOBER, 1985

PRESENT: T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Fr. J. Gordon, Mrs. E. Kehoe,
Miss M. Kenny, P. McAuley, J. Myers, G. O'Flynn

APOLOGIES: J. Davis, T. Mangan, F. Swan, S. Troy

MINUTES

The Chairman in opening the meeting welcomed all members back from holidays. He apologised for the delay in preparing the minutes which had not been circulated but were available at the meeting. After members present had studied them the minutes were adopted on a proposal by Miss M. Kenny, seconded by J. Myers.

MATTERS ARISING

The London Irish Festival Committee through S. Troy are dealing with the claim for personal injury and it has been passed to Insurers.

The Council of Irish County Associations have agreed to raise the funds for replacement of the dance floor in the John F. Kennedy Hall. Interim repairs have been carried out.

The contract for the maintenance of the central heating has now been signed.

Fr. Malone has safely completed the Parachute Jump. To date sponsorship has raised £2,000 and more is hoped for.

The Una Murphy Charity Walk took place last Sunday and sponsorship to date amounts to £1,500.

The Brendan Hayes exhibition of paintings has been postponed to the New Year and it is hoped the Irish Ambassador will perform the opening ceremony.

No progress has been made with regard to the decoration and refurbishment of the small bar. The foyer of the McNamara Hall has been painted and the leak in the water tank there has been repaired.

P. Keegan arranges all maintenance work.

The O.M.I. Provincial has accepted an invitation to pay a visit.

HOSTELS AND WELFARE

Fr. Ryan was unable to attend the meeting as Bro. Charles is on holiday. Sean Burke, a Maynooth Student, has joined the staff at Conway House for a year.

A problem has arisen regarding an undesirable resident who refuses to leave even though he has been given due notice. The matter is being processed through the proper channels.

Both Hostels are full. 85% of the residents at St. Louises are Irish. The Welfare Department is still kept busy but there has been a slight drop in the number of applicants.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Minister Rory Quinn visited the Centre and both Hostels and was shown around by T. Dunne and P. Keegan. He lunched with the staff and had meetings with three groups of hostel residents who were very outspoken.

Proposals for development and refurbishment were outlined to him. He promised to continue the Irish Government grant.

Other recent visitors included Minister of State George Birmingham, Denis McGinley TD, Councillor Noel Collins of Cork, Noel O'Sullivan of the National Social Service Board and Ms. F. Newman

While in Ireland Fr. Malone met Senator Timmy Conway Chairman of Kildare County Council who made a cash presentation. Senator Conway is writing to the County Council Chairpersons urging their support for the Centre.

Trouble was experienced with some of the youth during the disco on the previous Friday. Damage was done to toilet ceilings and it was alleged that a number of them brought in intoxicating liquor. As a result of advice from Peter McAuley who has much experience of organising youth discos it was agreed to advise Miss K. Fitzsimons that in future some parents must be in attendance at discos, members must be searched on admission, membership card with photograph must be produced, there will be on re-admission, there must be at least three adults at the door, with two keeping watch at each toilet.

Brendan O'Dowda has agreed to present his Perch French Show in the McNamara Hall at 8.00 p.m. on 28th November. He is giving his services free. Tony Beatty is in charge of the organising. Admission £15.00 includes buffet supper.

MANAGEMENT

The appointment of P. Keegan is proving a real boon and he is now coming to grips with the practical side in his capacity as Administrator. Mrs. D'Arcy is working closely with him. Management in the Welfare Department has also improved. Labour costs in all departments are being investigated.

T. Dunne is starting a campaign to increase covenants both from commercial organisations and individuals.

It is hoped to interest Sealink and British Rail in the facilities available for workshops etc. An advertisement has also been placed in 'Stage' magazine.

Queries were raised regarding bar prices particularly in comparison with local hostelries. This will be looked into.

AGIY CONFERENCE

The Action Group for Irish Youth which comprises voluntary agencies interested in the problems of Irish youth in London is holding a one day conference in the

McNamara Hall on 20th October. The purpose of the conference is to publicise the launch and findings of the major survey research project undertaken on emigrant Irish youth in London. The survey was undertaken by a professional team and was funded by the Youth Employment Agency and the Emigrant Commission both in Dublin. Help was also given by Sealink, Aer Lingus, Bank of Ireland and the Galway Association.

Speakers will include Fr. Professor Liam Ryan (Maynooth College), Senator M. D. Higgins (UCG) Tom Connor, Maria Duggan, Seamus Taylor and Stasia Crickley.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On a proposal by P. McAuley, seconded by Mrs. E. Kehoe, it was agreed that an account be opened at the Bank of Ireland, Naas to receive sponsorship donations in connection with the Fr. Malone Parachute Jump. Signatories will be any two of T. Dunne, Fr. Malone, P. Keegan.

A new telephone switchboard is being ordered. It can be operated from the present reception office in Murray Street and from the Welfare Department in Camden Square. Linda, the Irish Centre Receptionist, will be moved to the Welfare Department because the majority of calls during the day are for that Department. Considerable cost savings are expected.

At this stage Mrs. D'Arcy joined the meeting and discussed future functions and problems. She will ensure that notice boards are kept up to date.

Thanks were expressed to F. Swan for taking the minutes of the September meeting in the absence on holiday of the Secretary.

Linda was complimented on the neat and efficient way she produced the minutes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12th November, 1985, Irish Centre.

9. *[Signature]*
12. 11. 85