

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 12th NOVEMBER, 1985

PRESENT: T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Canon A. Woods, Mrs. E. Kehoe, Miss M. Kenny, A. Coyle, J. Davis, P. McAuley, J. Myers, S. Troy, G. O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES: T. Mangan, F. Swan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

MINUTES

The Secretary pointed out that in his draft he had shown the admission charge to the Brendan O'Dowda concert to be £10.00 and not £15.00 as shown in the typed minutes. Fr. Malone said the charge mentioned at the meeting was £10.00 but subsequently Tony Beatty insisted that it should be at least £15.00. The minutes were then adopted on a proposal by J. Myers, seconded by Miss M. Kenny.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman has written to Miss K. Fitzsimons informing her of the precautions that must be taken when discos are being held.

The Council of Irish County Associations are running a raffle to raise funds for a new dance floor in the J. F. Kennedy Hall. The draw will take place at the Council of Irish County Associations Annual Dinner on 15th March.

An estimate for £3,100 + VAT has been received for the work.

HOSTELS AND WELFARE

Conway House

Fr. Ryan presented a printout from his new Word Processor which gives information on the facilities available, the number of residents with basic information regarding each one.

The hostel has 97 beds four of which are reserved for staff. At the moment there are 93 residents, seven of whom are elderly. The average age of the remainder is 22.6 years. 70% are registered unemployed or on pension. It is feared that some residents are receiving unemployment benefit even though they are employed.

The problem regarding the undesirable tenant has not yet been resolved, and Camden Housing Aid centre are being obstructive.

The promised Social Worker has not yet been supplied by the Irish Centre.

Complaints have been received that some residents have broken into neighbouring properties.

Security Cameras are being provided to monitor the movements of residents and ex-residents who try to re-enter the premises.

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Continuation Sheet 2.

In reply to a query by Canon Woods about religious instruction and action, Fr. Ryan said that residents are spoken to individually and not as members of an institution. Many of them attend Mass in the Oblate Church across the road.

Both Canon Woods and Fr. Malone congratulated Fr. Ryan and the managements of both hostels on the efficient way they operate, and on their forward planning against future needs e.g. recreational facilities.

St. Louise Hostel

The replacement for Sr. Una has not yet taken up duty. One of the staff has given notice of her intention to leave.

The hostel is full and the residents are much better behaved than their counterparts in Conway House. For example they do not draw unemployment money when they are employed.

The problems regarding the roof and tank are receiving attention.

Planning application for no. 18 Quex Road is with Camden Council. No further development with regard to no. 16.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Fund Raising & Finance

£3,600 has been received to date from the Fr. Malone Parachute Jump and £800.00 from the Una Murphy Charity Walk.

The next instalment: (£55,000) of the debt due to the Bank of Ireland is due to be paid before the end of the year. The funds are available and the instalment will be paid in December. This will reduce the debt to £310,000.00. As from 1st January, 1986 interest will be charged. From then on the annual instalment to be paid will be £30,000.00. In addition the interest must be paid. Meetings are being held with representatives of the Bank who are looking into possible means of helping with the problem.

Grants for 1985 from L. B. of Camden (£9,000.00) and the Irish Government (£20,000.00) are still due. L. B. of Camden want an anti-discrimination clause included in our application for grants. This was agreed.

The Accountant's nine months report will be available for the next meeting. It was suggested that an Administrator's report be presented to the monthly meetings.

In reply to a query Fr. Malone said that trading and profit and loss accounts for the bar and catering will be presented to the next meeting, and definite proposals for improvement will be forthcoming.

S. Troy said that the Budget notices which are on display in the meeting room should be on public display in the Centre to show those visiting the Centre what the situation really is.

The Annual christmas fund-raising raffle will be limited to members to avoid clashing with the Council of Irish County Associations raffle for funds for the J. F. Kennedy floor.

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Continuation Sheet 3.

Canon Woods who called the founding meeting of the Centre and who arranged the first meeting with Ministers of the Irish Government said he never felt so encouraged as he does now and he expressed words of encouragement and urged perseverance with the good work. He congratulated the Chairman and Rev. Director on the success of their negotiations with the Bank.

Maintenance work for the services and heating system has been carried out.

A complaint was received that no representatives attended the Council of Irish County Associations Monthly Meeting to present the report. It was explained that this was due to a last minute emergency and it was agreed that in future the report would be given to S. Troy if the Rev. Director or Chairman was not available.

MANAGEMENT

J. Myers reported that due to lack of support Comhaltas will not be presenting their Sunday morning music session. It was felt that the drop in support was partly due to competition from the Thatch Restaurant and the Brighton Public House which have traditional music sessions until 3.00 p.m. This matter was referred to the Irish Centre Club with the suggestion that the traditional Sunday morning session is retained.

Friday and Saturday night taking in the Douglas Hyde Lounge have dropped considerably. It was felt that poor bands were responsible. It was agreed that there must be a variety of bands. S. Troy suggested that Folk Groups (some from Ireland) who can play Irish music would be an attraction.

Mrs. D'Arcy is arranging for an electrician to deal with problems which keep arising. It was agreed that the lighting switches in the McNamara Hall were not properly placed and it was agreed that switches would be fixed at the bar end of the hall.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th December, 1985

J. [Signature] 10. 12. 85