



# the irish centre

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Date

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY 1986

### Present

T. Dunne, Fr.C. Malone, O.M.I., Mrs E. Kehoe,  
Miss M. Kenny, A. Coyle, J. Davis, T. Mangan, J. Myers  
F. Swan, G.O'Flynn.

### Apologies

S. Troy

### In attendance

Rev.F.Ryan, O.M.I., P. Keegan

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on the 14th and  
27th January were adopted on a proposal by J.Davis,  
seconded by Miss M. Kenny.

### Matters arising

Arising out of the minutes of the meeting held on  
27th January, the Chairman introduced a document  
outlining the structure of management for the  
Irish Centre.

After members had taken time to study this document T. Mangan said  
that it was not in order because it was contrary to the constitution.  
He maintained that the manager had power to "hire and fire". He  
also said that the position of director was not covered in the  
constitution. He also maintained that the Irish Centre belongs to the  
church and that Westminster had never given anything to the Centre.

The Chairman denied that the Centre was owned by the church but  
agreed with the point regarding the position of director.

Miss M. Kenny proposed and A. Coyle seconded the adoption of the management structure document. Nine members voted in favour while one abstained.

The management structure is as follows:-

**T H E L O N D O N I R I S H C E N T R E**

Control = Council Irish Centre  
(Constituted Body)

C.I.C.

CIC deutes Authority for Control and Management of the Centre to the Administrative Committee (elected annually at AGM)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Administrative Committee delegates its Authority to the Director to manage the Centre's operation on its behalf and make a monthly report to the Committee on the Centre's operation

DIRECTOR

The Director is appointed to manage the overall operation of the Centre and monitor the day-to-day functions under two headings i.e. A. Administration and B. Community Services. The Administrator and Co-ordinator of Community Services will be responsible and report to the Director on these matters outlined above in A and B.

ADMINISTRATOR

Co-ordinator Community Services

Reports to the Director on all matters relating to the Community Services Unit in connection with its Welfare work.

Reports to the Director on all Administrative, Financial and operational functions within the Centre.

He will in the absence of the Director act for him and carries his authority for the said time.

Administrative and financial matters dealt with by the ADMINISTRATOR

Food and Beverage Manager

\*See also Director's absence.

Reports to the Administrator and is responsible to him for those areas and functions embodied in the Contract of Employment.

NOTE

Employees work for the London Irish Centre. The Director has ultimate power of "hiring and firing" - Power given to him by

## Accounts for 1985

P. Keegan submitted draft accounts for the year to 31st December 1985.

Both Income and Expenditure showed increases but the percentage gross profit on bars and on catering showed decreases as compared with 1984.

Wages included the salary of the 4th fulltime Welfare Officer.

The figures for light and heat were considered to be too high.

The increase in telephone charges reflected the increased volume of Welfare work. The new telephone equipment will allow the saving of the salary of one receptionist.

The travel figure includes Welfare disbursements and the cost of running a van.

The figure for laundry needs closer scrutiny.

The figure for advertising and publicity covers mainly advertising club functions. It was felt that better publicity is needed.

With regard to legal and professional charges it was pointed out that our Solicitors, Messrs Prince & Co., do not make any charges for their services.

Repayments to be paid to Bank and Breweries in 1986 are estimated to reach £80,000 and welfare expenditure is estimated at £100,000. Grants of £95,000 are hoped for.

## Hostels

### Conway House

Fr. Ryan said the annual report for 1985 is being processed through the Irish Centre.

It was a difficult year both in the number of applicants and the problems they presented. There were 550 applicants, mostly teenagers of which 80% were unemployed. Many had built in aggressive tendencies and some had mental health problems. Drink and drugs are causing big problems. In this scene the young are very vulnerable. The chef has been off sick because of a psychological attack by a resident.

Fr. Ryan regretted that the staff were not able to cater properly for those with mental problems. The promised social worker has not yet materialised. Two social workers are now urgently required i.e. a counsellor and an outreach worker. He renewed his appeal for the extra staff required.

Fr. Malone said that the Administrative Committee had for a long time tried to help. He will immediately propose to the administrator that funds be made available to hire a suitable person. The meeting approved this action.

### St. Louise's Hostel

The hostel is full and doing very well. 80% of residents are Irish. T. Mangan promised assistance from the Kerry Hostel for which Fr. Ryan thanked him.

## Welfare

Fr. Malone has asked for a monthly report in writing. Indications are that there will be a big increase in the number of applicants in 1986. There were 370 callers in January (155 first timers). In February to date there were 148 callers. They cannot release a Social Worker to go to Conway House.

Irresponsible and unprepared emigration from Ireland is to blame for a lot of the problems i.e. 117 arrived without birth certificates which are necessary for DHSS payments. The poorly educated are the most vulnerable.

On Thursday a film crew from Thames TV did a film which will be shown at 6.25pm on St. Patrick's Day.

## Director's Report

The new floor has been laid on the JFK Hall. This is sponsored by C.I.C.A.

The Clare Association have promised new chairs for the McNamara Hall. To date they have subscribed £1100.00.

The new chef appears to be quite good although some reservations were expressed about Bacon and Cabbage. A new barman has been employed. He lives at No.12 Murray Street. The new cleaner has left.

There has been no response from the G.A.A. regarding the proposed fund-raising. The Chairman will continue his efforts in that regard.

There is no change in the position regarding 52 Camden Square. The grant from the Irish Government to Dion has been increased and it is hoped that we will get a bigger share.

A fund-raising meeting will take place on next Sunday at 3pm. It is proposed to hold a members monthly draw which will commence on 1st June. Monthly prizes will be a new car, £400.00, £300.00, £200.00, £100.00. Tickets will cost £90.00 or £8.00 per month by direct debit. Tickets will be limited to 2,000.

The letter regarding fund-raising which was sent to County Associations was not received by many of them.

The Mayo Association in Manchester has given its' annual award to the Irish Centre.

Fr. Malone read a letter which he had sent to the Press regarding G.L.C. grants. They will not now give the computer grant.

Mrs E Kehoe was congratulated on her appointment Chairman of the London Regional Board of Conhaltas Ceoltoire Eireann.

The Mayor's Evening (with a buffet meal) will be held on 29th April, 7.30 pm for 8 pm.

The A.G.M. of the Council for the Irish Centre will take place on 1st May 8.30 pm

## London Irish Festival

A meeting of the General Purposes Committee was held last night. Draft accounts for 1985 were submitted.

It was proposed by Fr. Malone and seconded by T. Mangan that Mrs E. Kehoe, Mrs B. Shaw and T. Mangan represent the Irish Centre on the Working Committee. A vacancy was left to allow Fr. Malone to liaise with J. Murphy to see if he will accept appointment.

Fr. Malone said that Messrs Prince & Co., will confirm in writing that their services to the Festival will be free of charge.

## Management

Mrs D'Arcy reported a quiet period: The new chef has a good personality. He shows promise but will need a little time to settle in and familiarise himself with some of the equipment which is new to him. The new barman is pleasant and promising.

F.Swan gave a glowing report on the Bank of Ireland function held on the previous Friday.

There was an incident recently when some club members were refused admission to a private function. They became abusive, insulting and threatening to staff and the Chairman of the private function. It was reported that the leaders of this group had previously been expelled from the Club for similar previous misconduct.

G.O'Flynn proposed and F. Swan seconded that they be suspended from the club forthwith. A. Coyle will inform the Club which will take the necessary action.

## A.O.B.

The lights in the passage way to the J.F.K. Hall are still not working. They are dangerous now. The toilets in the D.H.Lounge have been repaired. There is still no heating in the front hall.

T. Mangan said that his remarks earlier were not intended as personal to the Chairman and Director.

## Date of next meeting

Monday 10th March 8 pm.

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