

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 13th MAY, 1986

PRESENT: T. Dunne
Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I.
Fr. B. Gilmore
M. Kenny
B. Shaw
T. Mangan
J. Myers
C. O'Connell
F. Swan
G. O'Flynn

APOLOGIES: Fr. J. Fullam
Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed all present, especially the new members.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by T. Mangan, seconded by F. Swan.

MATTERS ARISING

Miss M. Kenny wondered why the Lounge Bar opened only once at lunchtime despite the fact that it is supposed to be open every day. Fr. Malone said the decision was taken by P. Keegan with whom Fr. Malone will now consult. The feeling was that a worthwhile bar business could be developed and a luncheon trade could follow.

The Chinese Co-Operative have increased their offer for the hire of the McNamara kitchen to £3,000 p.a. This will include a creche for children. F. Swan said that a costing exercise should be carried out to ascertain an economical figure. The general feeling was that a letting such as this would present problems.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

For the election of Chairperson Fr. Malone took the chair. He thanked all who had agreed to serve on the Committee for the coming year which he felt would be a difficult one. Definite plans which are in the pipe-line will need a combined effort from all concerned to ensure success. He felt that the powers of "hiring and firing" should be vested in one person.

CHAIRPERSON

T. Dunne was elected unanimously on a proposal by Fr. Malone, seconded by T. Mangan. He thanked everybody and looked forward to a continuation of the help and courtesy which he had always received. He saw his position as that of co-ordinator. He said a Chairman is only as good as his Committee.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

T. Mangan was proposed by Miss M. Kenny, seconded by J. Myers.
B. Shaw was proposed by Fr. Malone, seconded by C. O'Connell.
Mrs. Shaw withdrew and T. Mangan was elected.

HON. SECRETARY

G. O'Flynn said that he did not wish to be nominated but as no other person was willing the position was left vacant until the next meeting.

TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Fr. Malone was unanimously appointed to both positions. In accepting he warned that we should prepare for the day when a lay-person could be appointed. He also said that the same person did not necessarily have to hold the two positions.

Fr. Gilmore proposed the appointment of a Committee to examine the Constitution with a view to revision and updating. He felt that the Welfare Department should be represented on the Administrative Committee. G. O'Flynn seconded the proposal which was agreed. ** The proposal relates to the examination of Constitution.*

T. Mangan proposed and J. Myers seconded the co-opting of Mrs. P. Keane to fill one of the vacancies on the Administrative Committee. Agreed unanimously.

IRISH CENTRE CLUB COMMITTEE

It was decided to await the Club Committee's recommendations for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson which it is hoped they will decide at their meeting on Thursday, 15th May.

Fr. Malone was appointed as Hon. Treasurer.

DIRECTORS REPORT**1. Finance**

At 31-12-1985 we owed the Bank of Ireland £300,000 and the Breweries £145,000. Fr. Malone, P. Keegan and T. Beatty are having discussions with the Bank on possible ways of servicing the debt e.g. by mortgage or long-term loan. A long-term mortgage arrangement could possibly wear a saving of £100,000 overall with annual repayments of £25,000 against the present £60,000.

2. Development of 50/52 Camden Square

We are still awaiting the decision of London Borough of Camden on our application for a grant to cover the cost of materials. It was hoped they will agree to £120,000 (i.e. 93% of estimated cost).

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Development of 50/52 Camden Square

The Manpower Services Commission here are interested in the Anco offer to supply the necessary Labour. They want to ensure observance of Trades Union Rules and Policy. We hope Anco will employ London based young Irish.

It will be necessary to appoint an Architect for the project. Liam Martin of Lewis and Hickey has offered his services free. Ruairi Quinn, Irish Government Minister, has also offered help.

Funds will be required to cover furnishing costs when the refurbishment has been completed. The provision of an access ramp for the disabled is being discussed with London Borough of Camden.

HOSTELS

Both hostels are full to capacity and many applicants have to be refused accommodation.

WELFARE

The number of new clients seen in April was 190, 131 male and 59 female. The main requirements were accommodation and advice re social security and employment. The numbers of applicants awaiting attention often causes crowding problems. It will be necessary to provide additional waiting room space. It is hoped to convert the space left for a lift shaft.

Fr. Gilmore said that the Welfare Department should be much more assertive in its' dealings with Church, State and Business. Present structures in Ireland need changing radically. The Policy there appears to be to force people out e.g. the refusal of Eastern Health Board to help a hostel. An upturn in the economies of Ireland and Britain would ease the situation. This is likely to happen here before it happens in Ireland which would encourage more emigration resulting in increasing demands on hostels and welfare.

Fr. Malone proposed and Miss M. Kenny seconded the reformation of the Welfare Advisory Sub-Committee.

Fr. Gilmore said the Administrative Committee is the seat of power, not the Welfare Department. He said that in conjunction with other bodies like Hammersmith Welfare Bureau we should use that power. We must be more effective and assertive.

CAR RAFFLE

400 tickets have been sold, a further 900 have been distributed with 700 still not out. At this rate of progress it is unlikely that the draw can commence in June as planned. A number of letters have been sent out and it was stressed that these should be followed up by personal contact. Members complained that two meetings which had been arranged proved abortive because no member of the Management Committee attended.

4.

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Car Raffle Contd.

A special meeting has been arranged for 28th May at 8.30 p.m.

SUB-COMMITTEES

a. Management

The following were appointed:

T. Dunne
Fr. Malone, O.M.I.
Fr. Gilmore
P. Keegan
C. O'Connell

Meetings are usually held at 11.00 a.m. each Tuesday.

b. Finance

The following were appointed:

T. Dunne
Fr. Malone, O.M.I.
P. Keegan
F. Swan

c. Fund-Raising

All members of the Administrative Committee.

It was pointed out that officers are ex-officio members of all Sub-Committees.

LONDON IRISH FESTIVAL

Preparations are well in hand. The next meeting of the Working Committee will be held on 15th May.

It was decided to order a marquee, 20 tables and 40 chairs.

MANAGEMENT

At a meeting today with the Manager the poor trading results for the quarter January - March were reviewed. Bar income for that period compared to 1985 was down £11,000 and catering income showed a drop of £9,000.00

The seriousness of the situation was pointed out to Mrs. D'Arcy and drastic action is required to remedy the situation. Stock figures also raised queries but these have been satisfactorily resolved.

An advertisement has been placed for an Assistant to the Manager.

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Management Contd.

Complaints were ^{voiced}~~raised~~ as follows:

1. Friction among staff - often caused by the barman.
2. ^{erratic price changes}~~entire price changes~~ - Price lists should be prominently displayed.
3. Prospective customers for functions often found difficulty in getting the information they sought. It was suggested that members of the Administrative Committee should make themselves available on a rota basis for evening duty and they should have access to the engagements diary in order to be able to help prospective customers.


Fr. Gilmore said that GAA clubs could be a good source of income but unfortunately some, because of poor service, had taken their business to other places where the food provided was much inferior. He said "shivers travel fast" and steps should be taken to develop better relations with the Clubs.

The Chairman said the gentleman who had offered his services as PRO had attended a Management meeting and it is hoped that he will attend an Administrative Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th June 1986 at 8.00 p.m.

T. Mangan advised that he would not be able to attend that meeting.

J. DA  6/6/86