

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 10th JUNE, 1986

PRESENT:

T. Dunne
Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I.
Fr. J. Gilmore
Fr. J. Gordon
Miss M. Kenny
J. Myers
C. O'Connell
G. O'Flynn

APOLOGY:

T. Mangan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.I.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to all, especially to Fr. Gordon.

MINUTES

G. O'Flynn detailed misprints in the minutes as follows:

1. Under Matters Arising, paragraph 2 "cooling exercise" should read "costing exercise".
2. Under Directors Report, Finance "mortgage arrangement could possibly wear a saving" should read "mean a saving".
3. Under Car Raffle, line 2 "with 700 still now out" should read "700 still not out".
4. Under Management, line 4, the figure is £9,000.
5. Under Management, complaints, "complaints were raised as follows" should read "complaints were voiced".
6. Under Management, complaints item 2, "entire price changes" should read "erratic price charges".

On a point of clarification it was pointed out that the proposal approved under Treasurer/Director paragraph 2 referred to the appointment of a committee to examine the Constitution and did not refer to the suggestion that the Welfare Department should be represented on the Administrative Committee.

Subject to the above, the minutes were adopted on a proposal by Fr. Malone, seconded by J. Myers.

Some members complained that they received their copies of the minutes only on the morning of the meeting.

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Minutes of Meeting - Administrative Committee - 10th June, 1986MATTERS ARISING

Much to the disappointment of the Chinese Co-Operative negotiations with them for the letting of the McNamara Hall have been terminated because such a letting to them would hinder the operation of the proposed luncheon club which it is planned to operate at the Centre under a subsidised arrangement with Camden Social Services. The luncheon club will be for the convenience of the elderly and will operate from 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The action was approved on a proposal by T. Dunne seconded by J. Myers.

Miss P. Keane sent a message that she could not serve on the Administrative Committee and she had not allowed her name to be put forward.

There are now two vacancies on the Administrative Committee and Miss M. Kenny was asked to raise the matter at the next Club Committee meeting with a view to their making a recommendation. It was also felt that a youth representative should be appointed. Another possibility would be a representative from the Welfare Advisory Committee.

J. Myers proposed and Miss M. Kenny seconded a motion to approve ~~a motion to approve~~ the appointments of D. Rooney as Chairperson and Miss M. Hannon as Hon. Secretary of the Club Committee. This was agreed unanimously.

It was then agreed that the Chairperson, Director and Hon. Secretary of the Administrative Committee, together with Fr. Gilmore, comprise the Committee to study the Constitution. The Chairperson undertook to get advice on any legalities which might affect the study.

G. O'Flynn proposed and Miss M. Kenny seconded a motion that the Director has the powers of "hiring and firing". This was agreed.

C. O'Connell queried the accuracy of the figures quoted for the drop in revenue for the quarter January - March 1986. It was decided to get clarification from P. Keegan when he returned.

HOSTELSSt. Louises

Fr. Ryan reported that the hostel is full. There are no problems with residents.

There is some work including painting to be done on the building Donie Egan has promised to help with planning and supervision.

Conway House

The hostel is full with a waiting list. Many of the residents

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Hostels - Conway House, contd.

show aggressive tendencies and are inclined to confrontation with the police. Alcohol addiction is also a problem.

Applications are up $\frac{1}{3}$ on last year, the expectation is that there will be further increases. The average age is 21.

Sean Burke, the clerical student helper, has now returned home. A replacement is expected in July. In the meantime, an OMI student is helping out.

Interviews are being arranged for a Social Worker who will be employed at the hostels and will be paid by the Irish Centre.

The Surveillance Cameras are now in operation and are a big help. A night-porter is urgently needed.

Financially, the hostels have no problems. Rents have been increased by £5.00 per week.

Fr. Ryan felt that an in depth study into the problems of residents and would be residents is essential.

18 Quex Road

Detailed plans for the development are being prepared. It is doubtful if the proposal for a recreation area on the top of Conway House is practical because of the safety aspect. A cost figure of £40,000 has been suggested but it now appears that a more realistic figure would be £100,000. The Engineers report is awaited.

WELFARE

The number of new clients interviewed in May was 222 - an increase of 22% on May 1985. Of these 174 were male and 48 female. There were 424 interviews. Highest numbers came from Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. Accommodation, employment and advice re DHSS services were the priorities. 60 applications were made for Birth Certificates. There were 10 requests for repatriation - 7 were arranged. Particularly noticeable was the number of young people who arrived hungry and with no money.

A "Student Pack" outlining services etc has been prepared in advance of the student invasion which is due shortly. Fr. Gilmore suggested that copies should be distributed to newspapers, radio and television. On a suggestion by Fr. Malone, Fr. Gilmore agreed to call a meeting of the Welfare agencies to prepare a press release.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Discussions regarding the Bank Loan are being continued with the Bank and a loan company.

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Directors Report contd.

London Borough of Camden Grant Committee have approved a grant of £36,722 for 1986/7 i.e. an increase of 3½% on 1985/6. Application has been made to them for the refurbishing grant for nos. 51/52 Camden Square and it will be discussed at their meeting on 23rd June. Messers Lewis and Hickey have agreed to act as Architects for the scheme. They will also supervise the work.

It was decided to ask Messers Lewis and Hickey to ascertain what planning permission could be obtained for the leasehold site in Murray Mews (site of three garages).

CAR DRAW AND RAFFLE

815 tickets have been sold and it is expected that a further 100 will be returned in the next few days.

Tickets for the £1.00 Car Raffle on Festival Day are now on sale. The GAA have been very co-operative and have allowed sales at Ruislip for the next three Sundays.

LONDON IRISH FESTIVAL

Arrangements are well in hand.

WEEKEND ROTA

Members were issued with an attendance register and asked to complete them as soon as possible indicating when they could attend.

MANAGEMENT

ILEA have written to say that they have approved Miss K. Fitzsimons as Youth Officer.

Fr. Malone said that the turnover figures for both bars and catering showed a significant improvement in April and May. Turnover for the five month period January to May were up on those for 1985 - bar £7,438 and catering £765.00.

Mrs. D'Arcy agreed that they had been exceptionally busy in April and May. New price lists are being prepared and will be displayed prominently in the bars. She does not think that a worthwhile lunchtime trade can be developed except on Saturdays. She feels that the bar man could be more gainfully employed on cleaning and re-stocking.

Mrs. D'Arcy and her staff were complimented on their wonderful work on recent very busy nights. It was agreed that Mrs. D'Arcy is under tremendous pressure and it is hoped that the vacant staff positions will soon be filled.

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Complaints were received from neighbours regarding noise during and after functions - particularly one wedding party when police were called. Fr. Gilmore said we must be more directive towards clients and leave them in no doubt about the behaviour expected from them. We must also ensure that the number of waitresses and bar staff on duty are sufficient for the needs. We should have too many rather than too few.

A complaint was made that the barman on his evening off appeared in the Lounge Bar under the influence of drink and used foul language to which some visitors objected.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8th July, 1986

J. D. Gilmore
8. July 1986