

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT  
THE IRISH CENTRE ON 14th OCTOBER 1986

PRESENT

T. Dunne, Mrs M. Hannon, Miss M. Kenny, S. McGarry, T. Mangan  
J. Myers, C. O'Connell, F. Swan, G. O'Flynn

APOLOGIES

Fr. J. O'Donoghue, Fr. T. Scully, Mrs. B. Shaw

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th September were adopted on a proposal by T. Mangan, seconded by J. Myers and the minutes of the special meeting held on the 5th October were adopted on a proposal by C. O'Connell, seconded by Miss M. Kenny.

MATTERS ARISING

1. No progress has been made with regard to the proposal to review the constitution. This is due to the pressure of work on our solicitors arising from the restructuring of the financial base.
2. The valuation of the premises is £850,000.00
3. The Chairman will renew efforts to arrange a weekend duty rota so that at least one member of the Committee would be available at the Centre on Friday and Saturday evenings.
4. The six monthly accounts were presented to the Finance Sub Committee. They showed that gross takings in the bars and on catering were each up by £2,000.00. This was considered unsatisfactory because the increases were probably due to increased prices and not more business.

The cost of wages and salaries were down by £5,000.00

It was felt that facilities should be publicised more widely. Programmes of coming events should be advertised in the weekly local papers and in the free papers which are widely distributed.

Complaints from customers should be thoroughly and promptly investigated and every endeavour must be made to win back customers who have taken their business elsewhere.

The accounts showed that costs of repatriation etc dispensed by the Welfare Department were very high and needed investigation.

Overall expenditure for the period was down £5,000.00

5. The Chairman's reply to Michael Walsh's letter was published in the 'Irish Post' and it appears to have satisfactorily clarified the position.

PRESENTATION TO FATHER MALONE

T. Mangan proposed and Miss M. Kenny seconded a motion to approve the presentation of £500.00 on his departure from the Centre. This was unanimously agreed.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Work on the refurbishment of 51/52 Camden Square is expected to commence shortly with the clearing of the site. Members might then like to inspect the premises before refurbishing commences. They will also be welcome to visit the site during progress of the work.

Our Architects, Messrs Lewis & Hickey have recommended the appointment of Messrs Alan Baxter and Associates as Consulting Structural Engineers. This was unanimously agreed on a motion proposed by C. O'Connell, seconded by Mrs. M. Hannon.

Our Architects will also be invited to recommend a site controller who will co-ordinate activities on our behalf. This will be a part-time position.

ANCO will supply their own instructor who will direct the trainees, the majority of whom will be recruited in Ireland. It is hoped to accommodate them in Conway House initially and as work progresses to move them into 51/52 Camden Square.

LUNCHEON CLUB

The grant application has been submitted to the London Borough of Camden. Several meetings have been held and approval is hoped for shortly. It is envisaged that the Council will supply trollies, mobile heated cupboards and overalls and cover the cost of wages gas and electricity.

It is planned to provide lunches Monday to Friday inclusive between 12 Noon and 2 p.m. with two sittings if required. A charge of 52p per meal will be made. A waiting list of approximately 100 already exists. It is hoped to start in January 1987 (or possibly Dec. 1986)

ANNUAL GRANT

The application form is now being completed and must be submitted before the end of this month.

CAR RAFFLE

A report will be submitted to the next meeting.

HOSTELS

Both are fully occupied with long waiting lists. Brother Charles Gallagher has been transferred. A replacement has not yet been appointed.

The question of a presentation to Brother Charles is to be considered at the next Hostels meeting.

WELFARE

There have been big increases in the numbers of callers, both first time and repeat. The problems remain much the same i.e. accommodation, employment, advice re Social Security.

S. McGarry referred to an article by T. P. Coogan in the 'Irish Press' which suggested that the Irish Centre was able to find employment for all callers. He felt that this article was ill-advised and can only add to the problems already being experienced.

MANAGEMENT

The new chairs for the McNamara Hall have been delivered and are a big improvement on the old ones. The cost amounted to £7,268.00 of which £5,657 has already been donated. Great credit for this is due to the Clare Association, particularly Mrs B. Shaw.

It is hoped that the balance of the cost will be made up by the sale of the old chairs.

Mrs D'Arcy reported that the Assistant Manager and the barman had left. She is now looking for a head barman.

The possibility of having a Christmas Day lunch was ruled out but lunches could be provided on other days both before and after Christmas Day. They would need to be properly organised, preferably by a small committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Notes of sympathy were passed with Fr. Ryan and Fr. Scully on their recent bereavements, and with the relatives of the late Dan Purcell. Mass cards have been sent in each case.

A Fund raising meeting will be held shortly.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th November 1986 at 8.00p.m.

DATE OF NEXT FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

14th November at 6.00p.m.

J. D. 11.11.86