

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 10th MARCH, 1987

PRESENT:

Fr. T. Scully, O.M.I., Fr. J. Fulham, Mrs. M. Hannon,
Miss M. Kenny, T. Dunne, T. Mangan, J. Myers, C. O'Connell,
G. O'Flynn.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES:

Mrs. B. Shaw, F. Swan.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by J. Myers, seconded by T. Mangan.

MATTERS ARISING

Miss K. Fitzsimons has been advised in writing that she can continue her weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays,

No reply has been received from Fr. Gilmore to our request for the names of all parties to whom copies of the letter of resignation of the Welfare Advisory Committee have been sent.

FINANCE

The accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1986 have not been finalised. They will be available at the April meeting.

WELFARE REPORT

Seamus Taylor presented the report for February 1987 as follows:

New Callers 213 - Men 163 - Women 50

Reattendances 262

Total Interviews 475

He also outlined a typical working day for him. This involved nine welfare interviews (including some groups) and a press interview interspersed with several 'phone calls. The problems varied.

It is now clear from his report that the pressure of work is heavy and that the Community Services section needs a lot of help and encouragement. Most callers

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are not prepared for the new environment and do not have the necessary documents to enable them to approach the DHSS for help. Cost of the Birth Certificates is high. The Irish Embassy has been asked to help but there has been no response so far.

Mrs. Hannon reported that the Galway Association had written to every priest in the County asking them to warn intending emigrants of the problems here and advise them of the necessary preparations.

C. O'Connell suggested that the Minister for Social Welfare should be invited and see for himself what goes on.

Seamus Taylor was complimented on and thanked for his report.

HOSTELS REPORT

Fr. Ryan reported that the Annual Report was completed and copies sent to the Shareholders. It shows that during the year 822 clients were accommodated in Conway House and 402 in St. Louise's. Demand so far in 1987 is up 25%. Of the residents in Conway House 95% are unemployed. They experience a lot of anti-Irish feeling in Kilburn and are under constant observation by Police.

A price of £55,000 has been agreed for the purchase of 18 Quex Road. It needs a lot of renovation which London Borough of Camden are about to undertake and for which they will probably expect to be recompensed. It is hoped to use the basement as a recreation centre. London Borough of Camden has vetoed our application for a grant and residents of Conway House are prepared to picket the Borough Council's offices in protest.

Fr. Ryan has not received the help he hoped for from the GAA and County Associations. The Secretary is leaving and he is looking for a replacement.

DIRECTORS REPORT

DEVELOPMENT 51/52 CAMDEN SQUARE

Negotiations are still taking place for the refurbishment. There are many problems. The cost will be greater than at first anticipated and the Camden grant of £120,000 will not be sufficient. There is also the risk that Camden will not progress acceptance of the tender in time to qualify for the grant. Possible options are:

1. Refurbish ground floor only
2. Involve Irish Hostels Limited and the Housing Corporation
3. Involve Community Industries

LICENCES

The licence for the McNamara Hall has been granted. Renewal of the Music and Dance licence is due shortly and it is understood that there will be opposition

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from local residents.

LUNCHEON CLUB

It is hoped that it can be launched in June. In the meantime Pensioners should protest to Camden Council at the delay.

FUND RAISING

A meeting was held on 15th February. It is not very heart warming. Funds are still urgently needed to pay off existing debts. Also a lot of refurbishing requires to be done. The small bar badly needs redecorating and a number of window frames need replacing.

J. Myers suggested the provision of a proper stage in the McNamara Hall to allow concerts to be held there. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann would use it regularly.

O.M.I. CONGRESS

The Congress attracted an attendance of 140. It was a depressing meeting with the future uncertain with welfare presenting a big problem.

CO-ORDINATOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

The advertisement has been placed and some replies received. The interviews will be decided shortly.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30th APRIL

Notices are now being prepared for distribution to members.

Nominees for appointment are:

T. Dunne

D. Petrie

F. Swan, with one more to be decided.

It is important to ensure that good candidates are nominated for election.

MAYOR'S RECEPTION

The reception for the outgoing Mayor will take place on 14th May at 8.00 p.m. Jim Myers will arrange entertainment.

CLEANING

Tenders have been received from several contractors. A decision will be made shortly.

BOOKING FORMS

New booking forms have been prepared and will be sent to clients with a letter.

MANAGEMENT

Mrs. D'Arcy reported that business is reasonable. She emphasised the necessity for decorating the small bar.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Irish Centre is taking a table at the Council of Irish County Associations Annual Dinner on 14th March. On that occasion Fr. Scully will present the John Vaughan trophy to the County Association which gave the most help to the Centre in 1986.

Jim Myers stressed the need to find alternative attractions for youth. He suggested a Jazz Club on Sunday mornings. The Council of Irish County Associations hold youth meetings on the last Thursday of each month. We must ask them how we can help.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th April, 1987 at 8.00 p.m.

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