

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE
IRISH CENTRE ON 12TH MAY 1987

PRESENT:

Mrs M Allen, Miss M Kenny, Mr T Dunne, Mr M Mahoney, Mr C O'Connell, Mr S Savage, Mr F Swan, Mr G O'Flynn. *T. Mangan J Myers*

APOLOGIES:

Rev. J Gordon, Rev T Scully OMI (Fr Scully was detained at a Residents Association Meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Fr F Ryan OMI

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read on a proposal by F Swan, seconded by T Mangan.

MATTERS ARISING:

None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected unanimously:-

Chairman - T Dunne - proposed by T Mangan, seconded by M Kenny.
Vice-Chairman - T Mangan - proposed by M Mahoney, seconded by J Myers.
Hon Secretary - G O'Flynn - proposed by J Myers, seconded by T Mangan.
Treasurer Director - Fr T Scully OMI - proposed by M Kenny, seconded by M Mahoney

CO-OPTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

A Coyle - proposed by J Myers, seconded by T Mangan.

IRISH CENTRE CLUB COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting will take place on 20th May 1987. the following were appointed to represent the Administrative Committee: Mrs P Finucane, Miss M Kenny, Mrs M McHale, Mrs M O'Brien and P O'Brien.. The appointment of Chairperson and Hon Secretary will be arranged with the incoming Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The following sub-committee appointments were made:-

(a) Executive

Rev. T Scully OMI, T Dunne, T Mangan, G O'Flynn.

(b) Camden Council

Each member to attend one meeting of the Ethnic Minorities Committee.

(c) Finance

T Dunne, Fr T Scully OMI, F Swan..

(d) Maintenance

T Mangan, C O'Connell

(e) Bar/Catering
Mrs M Allen, J Myers

(f) Development
Fr T Scully OMI, G O'Flynn

(g) Fund Raising
Rev T Scully, M Mahoney, S Savage

(h) Social
Miss M Kenny, A Coyle, J Myers

WELFARE REPORT

The monthly report was presented by Mr N Murray who regretted that typed copies were not available because of the pressure of work. During the month of April 177 new clients were seen. 131 were male and 46 female. There were also 140 return visits. 44% sought accommodation, 27% general help, 113 wanted birth certificates and 10 wanted marriage certificates. 64% were on their first visit to England. The majority have no jobs to go to and the only ones available are low-paid mostly casual building work. For initial accommodation they have a list of 20 B & B houses, and they also try hostels. Landlords now want deposits against rents. There is very little accommodation for women. Many still come unprepared, are easily frustrated and sometimes threaten violence. The DHSS pays £6.90 per night for a maximum of 8 weeks for those under 26. After that many are left homeless. The homeless persons unit in Camden is closed to callers and can only be contacted by telephone. They are often not very helpful. The recent DHSS strike has caused a lot of additional problems.

Mr Mahoney said that some of his customers get paid £12.50 per night - this is paid by the DHSS. ~~Fr Ryan said that some of his customers get paid £12.50 per head per night - this is paid by the DHSS.~~ Fr Ryan forecast that with the improvement in the employment situation in London demand for accommodation will increase and will rocket in cost.

He also forecast more violence. He said that a huge gap exists between us and the younger immigrants. We must try to understand them and make them useful members of society. He complimented the Social Workers on the Annual Report.

The Chairman thanked Nicky for his report.

HOSTELS REPORT

Fr Ryan reiterated all that Nicky had said and confirmed that the Welfare Department needed all our help.

Both hostels are full. St Louise's is being decorated at the moment. Work on No 18 Quex Road will commence shortly. They are looking for more property which could be used as hostels. To secure grants purchase price must be in accord with District Valuers valuation. Some of the residents of Conway House were involved in the recent passport scandal. He was very disappointed with the response which he received from the Irish Embassy in this regard. He supplied them with essential information but they failed to attend a pre-arranged

meeting. Fr Ryan said that he has a great need for a mini-bus for transport of residents. He hopes that the Coutry Associations will help. Charges for accommodation (B & B plus evening meal) are £51 to £53 per week. So far this year bad debts have amounted to £4,000. His forecast for the year is £12,000.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) 51/52 Camden Square

The contractors are due on site on 26th May. The Quantity Surveyor's figures are due this week and must then be submitted to Camden Council.

(b) Community Services

Four rooms on the top floor are being decorated. The next step will be to decorate all the outside; then No 12 Murray Street followed by all the interior of the Camden Square/Murray Street complex. In conjunction with this, alterations will be made to the Douglas Hyde Lounge and Bar and to the small bar/ lounge.

(c) Co-ordinator Community Services

Some promising replies have been received as a result of the advertisement in The Sunday Press. M Mahoney said he knows two qualified girls and will make them aware of the situation.

(d) Episcopal Conference

The Emigrant Chaplains and Social Workers met to discuss problems relating to emigration. Useful ideas and suggestions were aired.

(e) Federation Conference

No report

(f) Licence McNamara Hall

Objections are being raised to the renewal of the Music and Dance licence, including one by LBC Environmental Health Officer. The hearing will take place in June.

(g) CICA meeting

Criticisms and suggestions were made in a constructive manner. They have since been discussed with Mrs D'Arcy who will look into them. Complaints included general presentation, dress and demeanour of staff, maintenance of dance floors and toilets, prices and conditions of drinks, bar opening hours. All ~~points~~ raised will receive urgent attention.

POINTS

MANAGEMENT REPORT

There was no report because Mrs D'Arcy was busily engaged in functions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 9TH JUNE 1987

g. D'Arcy
Chairman
9/6/87