

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 14TH JULY 1987

PRESENT:

Mrs M Allen, Rev T Scully OMI, Mr T Dunne, Mr A Coyle, Mr J Myers, Mr C O'Connell, Mr S Savage, Mr G O'Flynn, Rev S Fullam, Mr M Mahoney.

APOLOGIES:

Miss M Kenny, Mr T Mangan, Mr F Swan

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and subject to correction of misprints were adopted on a proposal by Mrs M Allen, seconded by A Coyle.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Hon Secretary had written to D Rooney as instructed and had received a reply denying the necessity for an apology. He challenged the Committee to a discussion on the running of the Centre. The letter was taken as 'read'.

A Coyle has not yet made his recommendations to fill the vacancies on the Club Committee.

FINANCE

Fr Scully reported a profit of over £13,000 on the Festival car Raffle. He felt this figure could have been increased by £10,000 if sufficient ticket sellers had been mobilised. It appears young people are not interested so it is up to the older ones to do the work. He looked for a commitment from members of the Administrative Committee. Approximately £5,000 was raised in Ireland.

WELFARE REPORT

The recent situation in the Welfare Department has been very difficult with more callers than ever before. S Taylor has left and Miss B Brandon leaves later this month. Fr Scully spends a lot of time there and he appealed to members to spend some time there. The complete range of problems is being experienced - from procuring birth certificates to housing homeless families. Some are easy to deal with. Homeless families are a big problem especially as the London Borough of Camden homeless persons unit has been closed to the public for the past 6 weeks. The London Borough of Brent will not give any help either.

During the month of June there were 260 first time male callers and 74 first-time female callers. In addition there were 97 male and 40 female repeats.

HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels were full all the time and both have waiting lists of applications for accommodation. So far this year Conway House has received 800 applications. Politicians both here and at home are only paying lip service to the problems. Fr Scully said that each County Association should set up its own accommodation bureau with lists of householders who would be prepared to let accommodation to the needy. The DHSS will pay for anyone who provides proof of identity and signs on for work. Lists of contacts for work should also be made. Fr Scully warned that as a result of the shortage of priests chaplains will be expected to devote more time to priestly duties. The Administrative Committee must be prepared to take on more responsibilities in the running of the Centre. He is having a meeting with Bishop Guazzelli on this matter on Friday.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) 51/52 Camden Square

The ANCO team arrived on 6th July and are accommodated in the upstairs flat. They also get their food free in the Centre. They are good workers and are doing a very good job but their progress is being hindered because the professionals are behind in their work. Completion is scheduled for 18th December. The ANCO workers are losing out on their pay because of the exchange rate.

(b) Community Industries

The first team of workers has been replaced by a much better team and progress is much improved. The scaffolding is being taken down this week.

(c) Community Services Vacancies

(1) A promising candidate is being interviewed on Sunday for the position of Co-ordinator.

(2) Two candidates have been selected for appointment as Social Workers and are expected to commence work in a month.

(3) An advertisement is now being placed for a receptionist. A temporary receptionist started work yesterday.

The members of Dion had a meeting with the Executive Committee. They wanted to know why Welfare workers were leaving and when they will be replaced. They plan another visit in October.

The following have agreed to serve on the Welfare Advisory Committee:-

R Hevey, Dr L Morton, T Maskell, Sr Carmel, Fr Scully, T Dunne.
An urgent priority is to set up guidelines for the Welfare workers. The Department must limit itself to its capabilities as there are limits to what it can do. The issuing of money and travel vouchers must be strictly controlled and must receive the approval of Fr Scully (or his nominee).

(d) Licence - Music and Dancing

The licence has been renewed subject to certain conditions which must be attended to before the end of August. Complaints about noise are still being received. An effort must be made to start functions earlier and also to finish them earlier.

(e) FUND-RAISING

The meeting held on 10th June was very poorly attended. A determined effort must be made to sell all 2,000 tickets for the 12 Monthly Car Draw. The full results of the previous draw are being sent to members who participated with an invitation to join the forthcoming one which will start in November.

The Waterford Race Night was badly supported.

S Savage queried the position with regard to a PRO. He can get items published in Belfast papers.

(f) MANAGEMENT

The Bar/catering Sub-committee presented a report. They found that some customers in the bars will not query prices while others complain about everything. Some prices are high and beers sometimes not in good condition. Soft drinks are too costly and provision of cans should be considered. Prices increases by Breweries are automatically passed on.

Complaints had been made that some customers get preferential treatment about 'late' drinks. This must be left to the discretion of the Manager.

Catering is excellent.

Mrs D'Arcy reported that she has been receiving abusive phone calls from a local resident. - Mr Jenkins. She was advised to keep a record of such calls.

Mrs D'Arcy hopes that the work on the Douglas Hyde Lounge will soon be completed. Cleaning of the premises is difficult because of the building work.

Lists of vacant dates in the function rooms are being sent to County Associations and GAA Clubs. Plans are being made to start lunches on Saturdays and Sundays.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Irish Centre Youth Club requested permission to hold a disco in the Centre on 25th or 31st July. Regretfully the request was refused because of trouble and lack of supervision on previous occasions.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST - NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 1987 AT 8PM

J. Bennett
9.9.87