

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 12TH JANUARY 1988

(1) PRESENT:

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mr T Mangan, Mrs M Allen, Mr J Myers, Miss Mary Kenny, Mr C O'Connell, Anton Coyle, G O'Flynn, S Savage

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rev F Ryan

APOLOGIES:

Rev J Gordan, M Mahoney

(2) 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 C O'Connell.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

None

(4) FINANCE

Negotiations are in progress with Charringtons and Watneys regarding outstanding debts. There is a possibility that one Brewer would take on all the debts provided they were accepted as the main suppliers of beers etc. The existing penalty clauses would cause problems, especially that attached to Commercial Credit loan which must be maintained at least until January 1989. Negotiations will probably drag on for a year before satisfactory arrangements can be made.

(5) WELFARE

Paul Murphy presented his written report for December as well a yearly figures and graphs showing trends.

The number of new callers during the month was 106 which was much less than in previous months. Staff have taken advantage of this quieter period to update records and visit and liaise with other Welfare agencies. They are also working on the Annual Report.

A long discussion ensued and criticisms were made of help being



given to callers who were already fiddling the DHSS and Revenue Authorities. Criticism was also directed at the Authorities at home, both Church and State, for not speaking out clearly on problems associated with emigration and for not carrying their fair share of the burden.

(6) HOSTELS

Fr Ryan spoke at length on the problems being experienced at the hostels, especially Conway House. Some of the callers have been victims of ill-treatment at home as well as having been the victims of unscrupulous landlords and employers. But many callers expect everything for nothing.

Fr Ryan estimates the number of immigrants from Ireland to be in the region of 90,000 of whom one in five need assistance. There is no worthwhile future here for many of them. He appealed to Irish Associations and Societies to absorb into their ranks as many as possible of the newly arrived. He estimated that the cost to this country resulting from Irish emigration is in the region of £1.5 billion.

The attitude of DHSS officials has hardened considerably and conditions can only get worse from 1st April next when the new Housing Bill and Grants Bill come into force. From that date those between the ages of 16-18 will not qualify for DHSS grants unless they are in some occupation.

The Welfare Advisory Committee will be reviewing the situation at their meeting next week.

(7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a)

The Day Care Centre

Work is now nearly finished and it is a very good job. The CICA have been asked to help finance the furnishing.

(b)

The back staircase is now being plastered etc. and will be used as the access to the Lounge Bar and Douglas Hyde Lounge.

(c)

Work has commenced on the Lounge Bar and is expected to be completed in one month. It will then be called the Counties Bar and it is hoped that County Associations will supply their plaques to be put on display.

(d)

The stairwell is being converted into a store on the ground floor and a small lounge on the first floor. The cost of all this is estimated at £21,300.00.

(8) SOCIAL CLUB

A Coyle reported no problems except with the gaming machines.

(9) BAR and CATERING

There was no report because Mrs D'Arcy is on sick leave. A lot of extra bookings have been received. There are a number of problems to be sorted out but this is difficult at the moment because of the building work being carried out.

(10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The McNamara Hall is in need of decoration and the amplification and air conditioning there need urgent attention.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 1988 AT 8PM AT CONWAY HOUSE, QUEX ROAD NW6.

\*\*\*\*\*

*J. D. ...  
Chairman  
8.3.1988*