

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 13TH DECEMBER 1988

1 PRESENT:

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mrs M Allen, Mrs M Fitzsimons, Miss M Kenny, Mr T Mangan, Mr J Myers, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES:

Rev G Stack, Mr A Coyle, M O'Mahoney.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev D Cormican, Mr P Murphy.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

3 MATTERS ARISING

Negotiations with Cleaning Contractors are being pursued. A representative of one Company has visited the Centre. No reply re charge to Auctioneers for taking space at display.

4 YOUTH LEADER - REPORT

Miss K Fitzsimons, Youth Leader, attended the meeting and strongly refuted claims that more supervision was needed. She maintained that children who caused problems around the Centre, especially in the toilets, did not belong to her group. It was suggested that football and the hockey being played were not suitable for the hall and could lead to accidents. Table tennis would be more suitable - especially seeing that the equipment is already there and that there is ample storage space. The Kennedy Hall is reserved for the Youth every Monday and Wednesday. The ages of members range from 11 years to 17. There are 29 members on the register. The average attendance is 12. The Area Youth Officer, Mr Walsh, has visited and did not make any complaints. The Group is covered under ILEA insurance. All have membership cards. Miss Fitzsimons complained that broken glass has been found on the floor, as well as cigarette end and other rubbish. She also complained that children are 'barked' at when they come in. She also complained that the Centre did not supply any equipment. She also objected to the cancellation of the disco functions.

She expressed displeasure at being called in from Hornchurch to answer allegations which she considered were without foundation. She invited the Chairman to visit the club in action and see for himself what the true situation is: The Club is closing down from 14th December to 9th January. The Chairman thanked her for attending the meeting.

5 MAINTENANCE SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

T Mangan and J Myers did an inspection of the premises and submitted a detailed report which is receiving attention. C O'Connell said that complaints which he made last year were

still not attended to; stage in Douglas Hyde lounge is dangerous, some seats there also dangerous, sound control system there not functioning properly. Strong complaints were made about the volume of the music at recent discos.

6 WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy presented his written report and statistics. Breda O'Reilly left on 8th December. The decision to delay the appointment of a successor was not well received by the staff in the Welfare Department. They felt that a Field Employment Worker should now be appointed. The number of callers has declined but their problems are getting more complex and more desperate. The new DHSS regulations have made the situation more difficult. ~~Clients at~~ places like Centrepoint cannot now give benefit to individuals who are then forced to resort to squatting in unsuitable places in order to qualify for benefit.

Fr Stack wrote requesting information on:-

1) the figures on co-ordination of Welfare Services at various centres, and the approximate figures of clients.

2) The proposed new premises being planned at Euston by the Episcopal Commission.

Paul said that the manual preparation of figures for statistical records is boring and time consuming and the results are often disappointing. Computerisation would be a tremendous asset in this respect and would also be a great boost to staff morale.

The Chairman thanked Paul for his report and wished him and the staff best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

7 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full and doing well. The new member of Staff Sr Brenda took up duty at St Louise's on 8th December. The football game between residents of Conway House and the police took place and was considered a very worthwhile experiment despite a few injuries to players.

There is a good atmosphere among staff at Conway House.

8 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) 51/52 Camden Square

There has been no response from the Irish Hierarchy to offer made to them. The architect has done a sketch scheme of proposed development which would mean a lot of space now lying idle would be put to good use.

(b) Air Conditioning and roof repairs - Kennedy/Douglas Hyde Hall

A quotation in the region of £22,500 has been received for air-conditioning. Other works would cost £24,000. A new roof would cost £60,000.

(c) Adjacent Land

Waiting a reply from Housing ^{Association} ~~Corporation~~ re ownership.

(d) New Work Initiative

Still trying to help youth to integrate, get employment, join training schemes. Pete St John hopes to open an office in Dublin before Christmas.

(e) Fund raising

The tickets for the Wembley Concert on 4th February next are now available at the Centre - prices £7.00, £6.00 and £5.00. Posters will be delivered on Friday.

(f) Manager replacement

A number of enquiries have been received but so far no suitable person has been seen. An advertisement is being placed in the Guardian and applicants will be interviewed by a panel which will include a specialist recommended by E Lumsden. This man will prepare the job description.

9 SOCIAL CLUB

Due to the absence of A Coyle there was no Chairman's report. New catering price lists were submitted and approved. Prices of wines are to be investigated. A suggestion was made to try video tapes for Sunday morning sessions in the Douglas Hyde Lounge. The shop in the new foyer has been opened by Mrs M Allen. There is a good selection of Irish goods, tapes, videos. Aran sweaters etc on display.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs M Allen complained that the Waterford Dinner was an absolute fiasco. The waitress service was terrible. There was a broken table. C O'Connell and G O'Flynn made similar complaints about their functions. Complaints were also made about bar staff being poor and badly dressed. One barman ran short of change.

It was stated that because functions start late waitresses will go elsewhere. A determined effort must be made to start serving dinners at 8.30 pm. The Chairman extended congratulations to Jimmy (the Chef) on becoming a grandfather and wish members a very Happy Christmas and a a good New Year.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON - 10TH JANUARY 1989 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. St John
10. Jan 1989