

MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE IRISH CENTRE HELD ON MONDAY,
13th JUNE, 1966

The President of the Irish Centre, the Right Hon. Lord Longford, Lord Privy Seal, presided and opened the Meeting by extending a very cordial welcome to the attendance - which included:-

Mr. Maurice Foley, M.P., Cllr. John Branagan, K.S.G., Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council; Cllr. L.P. O'Connor, Mayor of Camden; Rev. Joseph Kennedy of the Columban Fathers; Father A Woods of Southwark Diocese; Rev. Fr. O.R. Sweeney Chaplain of the Irish Centre, Mr. D. Donnelly, Chairman of the Irish Centre; Mr. L.P. Arnold, Vice-Chairman; Mr. John Nee, Hon. Secretary, the out-going members of the Administrative Committee, Dr. L. Morton, Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Rev. T. McNamara, representatives of the Irish Centre Club, representatives of ten county associations, the National University of Ireland Club, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Gaelic League.

The Minutes of the previous A.G.M. having been circulated were taken as read and approved.

Father Sweeney thanked all the Irish Associations who had supported the Centre financially during the year, the county associations and parish organisations. He made particular mention of Portsmouth Irish Society pointing out that had each association contributed likewise it would be a source of continued revenue which we could rely on. Fr. Sweeney said the appeal he would like to make to the County Associations was that if they each contributed one hundred pounds per annum it would be in the region of three thousand pounds per annum for the Irish Centre. Father Sweeney then read the Annual Report which had already been circulated and this was unanimously adopted.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: The Auditor's Report was presented by Fr. Sweeney, discussed generally and unanimously adopted.

APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION:

The President announced the following:-

- (a) Cardinal Heenan had appointed Rev. O.R. Sweeney as Chaplain for the coming year and Very Rev. Canon Groves to continue as Westminster Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee.
- (b) Archbishop Cowderoy had appointed Rev. Ambrose Woods to continue as Southwark Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee.
- (c) Bishop Wall had appointed Rev. Christopher Creede to continue as Brentwood Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee.

Under Rule 6 (ii) of the Constitution the following were appointed to the Administrative Committee :-

Mr. D. Donnelly, Mr. John Nee, Mr. L.P. Arnold and Mr. J. Vaughan.

Under Rule 6 (i) the following 8 were elected by the Meeting:-

Mr. P. Spillane, Michael Casey, James Conway, Robert Graham,

Thomas Beckett, Dr. L. Morton, T. O'Gorman and Brian Duggan.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS: Messrs C. F. Burton & Co. were appointed for the coming year, and Mr P. Keegan was appointed as Hon. Accountant.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: The following were unanimously elected Vice-Presidents of the Irish Centre :-

Mr. Maurice Foley, M.P.,

Clr. J. Branagan, K S G ,

Clr. L.P O'Connor, Mayor of Camden and

Rev. T. McNamara.

Clr. O'Connor said he felt greatly honoured to be elected as a Vice-President of the Irish Centre. He congratulated Fr. Sweeney on his reports and on the work he had done. The Irish Centre was taking a tremendous burden off the shoulders of Camden Council. He felt proud of the fact that the Irish Centre should be doing this and we were the only body in the Borough who had done anything like this for our immigrants.

Mr. Branagan said he also felt proud to be elected as Vice-President. He said the Irish Centre was not getting the official support it should. Voluntary aid was practically finished, there were frustrations here that could be removed if only the financial burden was overcome and he felt that more official help could be given by the Irish Government to speed up the welfare work and enable it to reach the standard it should.

Father McNamara also expressed thanks at having been elected Vice-President, and expressed the hope that more organisations would take an interest and in this way improve the financial position of the Centre.

Mr. Foley joined in the vote of thanks and good wishes to the Irish Centre.

In his Presidential address, Lord Longford congratulated all concerned on the splendid work done by the Centre during the past year and stressed that Irish immigrants were playing a leading role in the life of Britain to-day.

As there was no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Lord Longford for his continued interest in the work of the Irish Centre.