

**(Draft) Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of Moore St Consultative Group,
GPO, 22nd September 2016 @ 11.15am.**

In attendance were:

Gerry Kearney (Chairman),
Ernie Beggs – Moore St Traders Association
Joan Burton - TD
John Connolly - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee
James Connolly Heron – Save 16 Moore St Committee
John Conway - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee
Patrick Cooney – Save 16 Moore St Committee
Ciaran Cuffe – Dublin City Councillor
John Daly - Save No. 16 Moore St Committee
Margaret Hanway – Moore St Traders Association
Tom Holbrook – Moore St Traders Association
John Lyons - Dublin City Councillor
Muriel McAuley – 1916 Relatives Association
Mary Lou McDonald - TD
Mícheál Mac Donncha- Dublin City Councillor
Christina McLoughlin – 1916 Relatives Association
Éamon Ó Cuív - TD
Cara O’Neill – 1916 Relatives Association
Maureen O’Sullivan - TD
Nial Ring - Dublin City Councillor
Noel Rock - TD
Peadar Tóibín - TD

Garry McDonagh, Nial Dully - Secretariat.

Apologies, Sean Haughey, Mary Leech, Ray McAdam, Sean Paul Mahon and Eamon Ryan.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting and each member introduced themselves to the Group.

1. Mandate of the Group

Following discussion the following was noted/agreed:

- the draft mandate as circulated (attached at Appendix 1) was adopted on the basis that it constitutes a flexible framework which can be revisited and revised, if necessary, as the work of the Group progresses;
- recommendations would emerge on a consensus basis following consideration of relevant facts and options;
- recommendations would not be binding on the Minister but they are more likely to be implemented if they are practical and realistic;
- the work of the group not only concerns the historic 1916 site but also the livelihoods and income for street traders and their families.

2. Outcomes

The following was agreed as broad areas of outcome for the Group

- Recommendations as to the best way forward for Moore St and its environs;
- Deeper understanding of issues through access to information on current developments affecting the site, and on-going dialogue by the Group with the players/officials involved

In response to queries about the position in light of the present court case, the Chairman expressed the view that that the High Court decision was largely being appealed because of the generality of its application. At a practical level, beyond the legal process, it did not seem that there was now a clear way forward for the Department. In those circumstances, if the Consultation Group can come up with a workable practical solution, it would seem to have a strong prospect of implementation.

It was agreed that a visit to the site at 14/17 Moore St would be arranged for members of the Group on Thursday 29 September. It was also agreed that an independent Conservation Architect would visit the site and report back to the Group. Deputy É. Ó Cuív will liaise directly with members as to appointment of the Architect.

As regards the timeframe for concluding its overall work and reporting, the Group agreed on an end January 2017 deadline.

3. Process & other matters

The meeting was advised by the Chair that, as this is an ad hoc group, it does not enjoy legal privilege in its deliberations. Therefore it is essential to avoid any comments which might be construed as defamatory or libellous.

The work of the group will feature engagement with key players and deepen our understanding of issues. That dialogue will be conducted on the basis of presentations, respectful dialogue with interested parties and subsequent group assessment of issues.

It was noted that there are a wide range of other voluntary groups with an interest in the work of the Group. A list of such groups was provided to the meeting and is attached at Appendix 2. Recognising the practical limitations on membership of the main Consultative Group, it was agreed to afford such interests opportunity to present to the Group and have their views heard. It was also noted that some of these groups have a particular long standing and deep commitment to Moore St.

The Group will consider options as to how best to enable such external groups to attend and present to their views. So as to help focus the consultation process it was suggested that a brief set of questions be provided to each group of matters to be addressed.

4. Issues

The current position lacks clarity across a number of fronts. The different roles of key statutory bodies is unclear, as are their views on the current position and their future proposals and plans for the site. It was also noted that much of the land is privately owned.

The Group decided to request the Department and Dublin City Council to attend its next meeting and to present their perspectives on the current position and advise as to their proposals and plans. A briefing paper should be provided to the Group from each public body in advance of the meeting.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 06 October 2016 at 11am. Venue to be confirmed.

6. Other

Subsequent to the meeting a guided tour of the Moore St and environs was provided by Lar Joy of the National Museum.