

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of
Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene
and Climate Change Committee

Date : 30 January 2023 (Monday)

Time : 2:00 p.m.

Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Mr HO Siu-kei (Chairman)

Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH (Left at around 2:55 p.m.)

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

Mr HO Chun-fai (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric (Left at around 2:50 p.m.)

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LI Leong-ho Senior Land Executive/ Lantau (District Lands Office, Islands),
Lands Department

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office

Mr CHAN Chak-chung Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

Mr HUI Kar-nung District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TSANG Wai-man Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands),
Lands Department

Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr FAN Kwoon-chung, Colin Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)51,
Environmental Protection Department

Ms TSO Wing-shan, Linda Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2 (Acting),
Transport Department

Ms LO Lai-ping, Rebecca Senior Field Officer (Agricultural Extension) 1 (Acting),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise

Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District),
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr HO Lee-yip

Manager, District Relation,
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited

Ms Anthea CHAU

Senior Communications Manager,
Sun Ferry Services Company Limited

Secretary

Ms KWONG Tsz-wing, Wing

Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken



Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting and introduced the following representatives of departments who attended the meeting:

- (a) Mr FAN Kwoon-chung, Colin, Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)51 of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), who stood in for Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond; and
- (b) Ms TSO Wing-shan, Linda, Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2 (Acting) of the Transport Department (TD), who stood in for Ms FUNG Sin-yee, Mini.

2. Members noted that Mr Ken WONG was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022

3. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

4. The minutes were confirmed unanimously without further amendments proposed by Members.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman HO Siu-kei, the Vice-Chairman Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

(Mr HO Chun-fai arrived the meeting at around 2:05 p.m.)

II. Question on the use of the vacant government land on South Lantau Road for the provision of a refuse collection point
(Paper TAFEHCCC 3/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr LI Leong-ho, Senior Land Executive/ Lantau (District Lands Office, Islands (DLO, Is)) of the Lands Department (LandsD) and Mr HUI Kar-nung, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the DLO, Is and the FEHD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

6. Mr HO Chun-fai briefly presented the question.

7. Mr LI Leong-ho expounded on the written reply of the DLO, Is.

8. Mr HUI Kar-nung provided supplementary information in respect of the written reply of the FEHD. He said that the FEHD, along with Mr HO Chun-fai and the village representatives, had conducted an on-site inspection of the Refuse Collection Points (RCPs) at Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen, Lo Uk Tsuen and Chi Ma Wan Road on 19 January 2023. During the inspection, they had found an increase in the disposal of oversized household waste at the Chi Ma Wan Road RCP. Therefore, the FEHD considered there was a need to provide a sizable RCP in Southern Lantau Island to meet the needs of the residents in the area. He thanked Members for their suggestions and said that the FEHD would actively consider the site recommended by Mr HO. As the FEHD was aware that other government departments were also considering making use of the government land at the site in question, the FEHD would engage in discussion with the departments concerned regarding the use of land, investigate the provision of support facilities such as lay-bys, and invite Members, village representatives and staff of relevant government departments for a further inspection at the proposed site to assess the feasibility of setting up a RCP in depth.

9. Mr Randy YU thanked Members for their suggestions and the FEHD for its proactive response. He pointed out that the existing RCP in Tai O was quite spacious, and vehicles could access the RCP conveniently. However, the road that access to the site for the proposed RCP was quite narrow, which might make it difficult for grab-mounted trucks to enter the RCP. Furthermore, there was no passageway for pedestrians. If the preliminary study indicated that the project was feasible, he suggested that the FEHD should liaise with the TD and the Sustainable Lantau Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to examine the inclusion of additional facilities in the project to ensure that the public could access the RCP safely and conveniently. Otherwise, alternative sites should be considered for the RCP.

10. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his support for the above proposal and hoped that the FEHD would provide Members with information on the contemplated use of the government land at the proposed site by other departments. Noting that the proposed

site had a sizable area, he suggested that the departments concerned should consider sharing the use of the site. In addition, he referred to a proposal previously suggested by Mr HO Chun-fai regarding the conversion of the former Pui O Petrol Station into a roundabout to allow buses departing from Pui O to turn around at the location without having to travel to the Mui Wo roundabout. He wanted to confirm whether it was the same location as the proposed site mentioned in the question.

11. Mr HO Chun-fai expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The volume of waste shown in the pictures attached to the submitted question was just half of that accumulated at the locations during the peak seasons for waste disposal. There were also issues of indiscriminate dumping of waste at two other locations in Southern Lantau, which had become particularly severe during the summer when the number of tourists significantly increased. Furthermore, feedback from some cleaning workers and drivers transporting the waste indicated that they also had doubts about the locations for waste disposal. Therefore, there was a pressing need for the provision of the RCP.
- (b) The vacant government land at South Lantau Road would be a suitable site for the RCP. It was far from residential areas and would not have adverse impacts on the daily lives of the villagers. Furthermore, the site was conveniently located and easily accessible, making it easier for the grab-mounted trucks to transport the waste.
- (c) Two years ago, he had suggested the conversion of the site in front of the former Pui O Petrol Station into a roundabout. At the time, the proposal had been considered feasible by the TD. However, the implementation had been postponed due to the pandemic. He urged the TD to follow up on the proposal.

12. Mr HUI Kar-nung provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In assessing the feasibility of a proposed RCP, the FEHD would take into consideration the relevant ancillary facilities, such as lay-bys and passageways for pedestrians.
- (b) To tie in with the “single site, multiple use” land development model currently promoted by the government, the FEHD would liaise with other departments during the planning stage to explore the viability of joint land development, so that the use of government land could be optimised to serve the residents of Southern Lantau Island.
- (c) The FEHD noted the increase in waste disposal at the Chi Ma Wan RCP. When necessary, the FEHD would increase the frequency of refuse collection by grab-mounted trucks to clear the waste promptly, so that the accumulation of over-sized domestic waste would not cause any

obstruction on the carriageway or affect environmental hygiene.

13. Mr TSANG Wai-man said that the DLO, Is had currently received one land allocation application for the use of government land at the site in question for waterworks. As regards the proposal of Mr HO Chun-fai, the DLO, Is would carry out on-site inspections with the FEHD and other departments concerned and provide advice for the departments, so that the departments could further assess the feasibility of the proposal. Members would be informed of the results in due course.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is, in conjunction with the Water Supplies Department (WSD), the TD, the FEHD, the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei and five Members, carried out an inspection on 22 February 2023. The DLO, Is noted that the WSD and the FEHD would exchange information on land requirement for the waterworks project and the proposed RCP with a view to examining the feasibility of Mr HO Chun-fai's proposal. The DLO, Is would continue to follow up on the earlier application submitted by the WSD in respect of the use of government land in question.)

14. Mr Colin FAN said that the EPD would process the application for the construction of the RCP and assess the environmental impact of the project in accordance with general laws and relevant licensing requirements. The EPD did not object to the project. In addition, over the past three years, the EPD had received one complaint about the indiscriminate dumping of construction waste. The EPD would continue to review the issue of indiscriminate disposal of construction waste on a regular basis.

15. Ms Linda TSO said that the TD would conduct on-site inspections in collaboration with departments concerned to assess the ancillary transport facilities required for the RCP. Furthermore, she would follow up on the conversion works of the roundabout in question with relevant sections of the TD.

16. Mr Eric KWOK noted that the frontline staff of the FEHD had a significant workload, and some of the older cleaning workers had difficulties in transporting garbage on narrow paths and slopes. He suggested that the FEHD should consider adopting the powered bin trolleys currently used in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate to ease the burden on frontline workers.

17. Mr Ho Chun-fai expressed concern that if the indiscriminate dumping of garbage on roadsides continued, villagers would become accustomed to it and environmental hygiene would be affected. The provision of RCPs not only facilitated the disposal of waste by the villagers but also enhanced the awareness of proper waste disposal among them, thereby alleviating the above problems.

18. Mr HUI Kar-nung provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The FEHD was very concerned about the occupational safety and welfare of the outsourced cleansing workers. The FEHD was aware of the physical nature of garbage collection work, and the fact that some

workers were older. The FEHD, therefore, had been paying attention to the situation and carrying out annual review and assessment on the welfare and occupational safety of frontline workers, and appropriate adjustments measures would be taken as needed. For instance, the rest breaks for frontline workers during the summer were extended and facilities such as drinking water dispensers and rest areas were provided. If the proposed RCP could be put into use, the FEHD would also consider providing support facilities such as rest area for workers at the RCP.

- (b) FEHD staff working in the innovation and technology section had been researching the use of technology and mechanical tools to enhance work efficiency and alleviate the physical strain on frontline staff. The FEHD would examine how equipment such as powered bin trolleys could be used on footpaths and carriageways in compliance with the requirements of the law.
- (c) The FEHD agreed with Members' view that the provision of RCP could address the problem of indiscriminate disposal of waste. In addition, the FEHD intended to designate an area in the proposed RCP for the collection of over-sized domestic waste for public use. Furthermore, to enhance deterrence, the FEHD would consider the installation of a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system outside the Cha Ma Wan Road RCP to monitor the situation of illegal disposal of over-sized domestic waste. It was hoped that the aforementioned arrangements would help to educate the public on the proper disposal of waste.

19. The Chairman thanked the government departments for their proactive responses. Since waste handling is a work of unpleasant nature and the working population in rural areas was decreasing, the FEHD should take a proactive approach in improving the welfare of front-line workers. At the same time, to address the problem of indiscriminate disposal of waste, the FEHD should educate the public on the proper disposal of waste.

III. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper TAFEHCCC 4/2023)

20. The Chairman welcomed Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² and Mr CHAN Chak-chung, Senior Inspector of Works of the Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to present the paper.

21. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper the asked Members to take note of the content of the paper.

22. Members had discussions on the following projects:

- (i) Improvement works of the footpath from 68 to 106 San Hing Street, Cheung Chau (IS-DMW562), Improvement to sitting-out area near Cheung Chau Hospital Road, Cheung Chau (IS-DMW601) and Improvement to footpath at Tai San Street and Tai San Back Street, Cheung Chau (IS-DMW610)

23. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said the report indicated that the above works had completed site investigation and were currently in the process of works designs. As they were not major works items, he wondered why works designs were required. He asked the IsDO for the anticipated commencement date of the works and hoped that the works could be completed as soon as possible.

24. Ms Ellie TSE said that there was the need to take into account the impact on the pedestrians as a section of the road would be closed during the works period. The IsDO would finalise the implementation timetables for the works as soon as possible.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO carried out an on-site inspection at the road section concerned with Mr YUNG Chi-ming and Ms LEE Kwai-chun on 27 February 2023. A preliminary consensus has been reached on the works design of the project.)

- (ii) Improvement to footpath at Lower Keung Shan Village, Tai O (IS-DMW611)

25. Mr Randy YU said that the project had been proposed almost a decade ago in the year 2012-13. It was currently expected that tender for the work would be invited in late 2023. He asked the IsDO about the progress of the project.

26. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said that the project had entered the design stage. As some parts of the road section involved in the works were private land, the IsDO had reached a consensus earlier with the stakeholders, who had then signed the required consent forms in respect of the works. The environmental protection organisations were currently being consulted.

27. Mr Randy YU expressed his respect for the views of the environmental organisations. However, given that they were only stakeholders and not official agencies, he did not understand why consultation with environmental groups was regarded as a primary consideration in the implementation of the project. In his opinion, if the works were to be carried out in the country parks, seeking advice from the relevant departments or statutory boards and committees, such as the Country and Marine Parks Board under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, would be more appropriate. He pointed out that about 70% of the land on Lantau Island was within the boundaries of country parks, which, together with the conservation and green belt zones, constituted 85% of the land on Lantau Island. He believed that if only a small portion of the land was used for the implementation of works to improve the facilities in rural areas, the impact on the environment would not be significant. Furthermore, he suggested that the IsDO, when consulting the environmental organisations, should also invite Members to participate in the discussion, allowing different stakeholders to express their views and reach a consensus to avoid delaying the progress of the project.

28. Ms Ellie TSE said that in future local consultation, the IsDO would consider inviting environmental activists to meet with Members, so as to understand the views of different stakeholders.

(iii) Improvement to footpath at Tai O Pak Shan, Tai O (IS-DMW628)

29. Mr Randy YU noted that the IsDO had discussed the project details with the stakeholders and would conduct preliminary investigation and design. Pointing out that the project had been proposed as early as in 2013-14 but the implementation timetable had yet to be finalised, he hoped the IsDO could provide a timetable as soon as possible. He further enquired whether the tender for the project would be invited in the second half of 2023.

30. Ms Ellie TSE said that the IsDO would study the feasibility of expediting the progress of the project after the meeting and formulate a timetable as soon as possible.

31. Mr CHAN Chak-chung added that the entire tourism trail was 58 metres long and the IsDO was actively expediting the project. A site inspection with Members would be organised shortly to confirm the scope of the project.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO conducted an on-site inspection of the trail in question with the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei on 9 March 2023. A preliminary consensus in respect of the design of the project had been reached. Tender invitation for the project was expected to begin in the first half of 2024.)

(iv) Construction of rain shelter at Nam Bin Wai, Mui Wo (IS-DMW644)

32. Mr WONG Man-hon said that before the Lunar New Year, staff of IsDO had discussed the provision of an additional entrance to the rain shelter in question with the Vice-Chairman of the Mui Wo Rural Committee. However, no such modification had been seen so far. He hoped that the IsDO would confirm the arrangement.

33. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said that during the site inspection, the Works Section of IsDO and the Vice-Chairman had taken the opinions of the residents into consideration and had decided to install additional railings at the original entrance and change the location of the entrance to prevent pedestrians from walking onto the carriageway.

(v) Beautification works along the steps near Yung Shue Wan Plaza Road, North Lamma (IS-DMW688)

34. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that according to the report, some of the works under the project involved government licensed land. The IsDO was seeking the written consent of the party concerned. Noting that the licence in question had been granted decades ago, she asked the IsDO how the problem would be resolved if the written consent had not been obtained. She hoped that the IsDO would update Members on the latest progress.

35. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said the IsDO had noted that the licensee concerned had passed away and the LandsD had not yet formally removed the registration of the licence. The works could only commence after the LandsD had completed the relevant formalities for the release of the land. The IsDO would keep in touch with the LandsD to follow up on the latest development.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is was currently processing the revocation of the government land licence in question. Once the licence was revoked, the DLO, Is would assess the application for government land allocation submitted by the IsDO.)

(vi) Provision of pavilion near jetty at Sha Lo Wan, Tai O (IS-DMW678)

36. Mr Eric KWOK was pleased to note that the IsDO was preparing the draft plans for the project. He asked the IsDO whether solar panels would be installed on the roof of the pavilion to provide charging service and free mobile internet connection for the public. Since Sha Lo Wan in Tai O was a tourist hotspot at a remote location, he believed that the provision of such services would facilitate members of the public in need. He hoped that the IsDO would consider the proposal.

37. Ms Ellie TSE said that solar panels were not included in the current plans of the project. The IsDO would consider the installation of solar panels in due course upon completion of the pavilion construction works.

38. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said that the IsDO was actively expediting the progress of the works, but the remote location of the site would have some adverse impact on the progress. Taking into account the budget and project schedule, the IsDO intended to prioritise the construction of the pavilion and the provision of basic facilities. Additional facilities for optimisation would be considered later. He pointed out that the Works Section of the IsDO had less experience in the installation of solar panels.

39. Mr Eric KWOK was pleased to know that the IsDO would commence the works as soon as possible. He pointed out that the cost of installing solar panels was not high, just tens of thousands of dollars in general. The installation process was not complicated. If the addition of solar panels were to be considered after the completion of the works, the cost would be higher. Therefore, he suggested that the IsDO should consider adding the facilities during the planning stage so as to optimise the use of resources and provide convenience to the public. Furthermore, he recalled that the IsDO had experience in the installation of facilities such as solar panels during the implementation of other projects. He would check the minutes of past meetings so that the IsDO could make reference to it.

40. Mr Randy YU concurred with the views of Mr Eric KWOK. He pointed out that Members had repeatedly suggested that the IsDO should include the addition of solar energy facilities in the works for the piers and pavilions at remote locations in the Islands District. The CEDD had also included the installation of solar panels in its works for a pier, which were currently underway. He believed that it would not be

difficult for the IsDO to include the installation of solar panels during the design stage and additional cost would only be tens of thousands of dollars. It would be a more cost-effective option, compared with that of retrofitting after the works were completed. He called on the IsDO to consider increasing the funding for the additional solar panels.

41. Ms Ellie TSE said that the IsDO had reviewed the minutes of the meetings and realised that the original estimate for the project was around \$500,000 to \$600,000. Therefore, the IsDO planned to use the original funding on the construction of the main facilities of the project such as the pavilion first. The IsDO would need time to acquaint itself with the procedures and details of the installation of solar panels, and to assess whether it was possible to modify the plans for the inclusion of additional facilities within the original budget. She hoped that Members would understand the situation and allow more time for the IsDO.

(vii) Provision of rain shelters with benches at Tai O Promenade, Tai O (IS-DMW710)

42. Mr Randy YU expressed concerns over the existing shelter at the Tai O Waterfront Promenade, which was in serious disrepair and had rainwater leakage issue. Although the IsDO had planned to invite tenders for the seat installation works in February, he still hoped that the office could deal with the disrepair condition of the shelter first. As the problem had persisted for nearly a decade, he suggested that the IsDO should liaise with the relevant departments and organisations, for instance the CEDD, to conduct an on-site inspection and consider how the problem could be resolved.

43. Ms Ellie TSE said that the IsDO would inspect the afore-mentioned rainwater leakage problem after the meeting. Subject to the severity of the problem, the IsDO would carry out basic repairs whenever practicable, and organise a joint on-site inspection for the CEDD and Members afterwards.

44. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said that the IsDO would carry out an on-site inspection with Members to assess the rainwater leakage problem of the shelter and perform repairs as appropriate.

45. The Chairman thanked the IsDO for its response and asked the office to continue following up on the progress of the works in question.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO was working with the relevant departments to clarify the maintenance responsibilities in respect of the shelter and would follow up on the issue with Members in due course.)

IV. Report by Working Group

(i) Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee Activities Working Group

46. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that the report of the Working Group had been distributed to Members for perusal by email before the meeting (please refer to the Paper 1). Members were welcomed to comment on the report.

47. Members had no comment.

(ii) Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group

48. Mr Randy YU said that the report of the Working Group had been distributed to Members for perusal by email before the meeting (please refer to the Paper 2). Members were welcomed to comment on the report.

49. Members had no comment.

(Mr Eric KWOK left the meeting at around 2:50 p.m.)

V. Any Other Business

50. No further business was raised by Members.

(Mr CHOW Yuk-tong left the meeting at around 2:55 p.m.)

VI. Date of Next Meeting

51. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 27 March 2023 (Monday) at 2 p.m.

-END-