

**(Translation)**

**Islands District Council  
Minutes of Meeting of the  
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee**

Date : 7 November 2022 (Monday)  
Time : 2:00 p.m.  
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,  
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present**

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH (Chairman)  
Ms LAU Shun-ting (Vice-Chairman) (Arrived at around 2:03 p.m.)  
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP  
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH  
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH  
Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH  
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken  
Mr HO Chun-fai (Arrived at around 2:13 p.m.)  
Mr HO Siu-kei (Arrived at around 2:09 p.m.)  
Ms WONG Chau-ping  
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric  
Mr FONG Lung-fei

**Attendance by Invitation**

Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District),  
Hong Kong Police Force  
Ms CHUNG Dip-fun, Sarah Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)5,  
Housing Department

**In Attendance**

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office  
Ms CHOW Yuen-on, Alice Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly Senior Librarian (Islands),  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Ms Merry LIM Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Ms LAM Fong-shing, Florence Senior School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands),  
Education Bureau  
Mr WONG Chi-leung Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/  
Southern/Islands)2, Social Welfare Department  
Ms KWOK Man-lai Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District

Mr WONG King-chuen  
Ms CHOI Kwok-por

Chairman, Islands District Sports Association  
Chairman, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

**Secretary**

Mr YEUNG Chiu-cheong, Mark

Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting. He introduced Ms Ellie TSE, Assistant District Officer (Islands)2 who stood in for Mr LI Ho.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 6 September 2022

2. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and organisations and been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting. No further amendments had been proposed and the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Question on the gambling activities in public places in Yat Tung Estate  
(Paper CACRC 20/2022)

3. The Chairman welcomed the following guests who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms Denise LI, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force and Ms Sarah CHUNG, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)5, Housing Department (“HD”).

4. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

5. Ms Denise LI responded as follows:

- (a) During the period from October 2019 to October 2022, the Lantau Police District had received a total of 89 complaints about street gambling at the Golden Bull Plaza, Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung. During this period, officers of the Lantau Police District had kept conducting numerous anti-street gambling operations at the above location and joint operations with the HD were also carried out. Over the three-year period, officers from the Police District had prosecuted or issued fixed penalty notices to 46 offenders under the Gambling Ordinance and the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation, involving fines of up to

\$230,000. The staff of HD had also taken corresponding management measures after the operations to augment the deterrent effect.

- (b) The Lantau Police District would continue to devise operational plans in light of the crime situation in the district and prioritise its work. The Police District would also continue to work with various organisations to counter gambling in housing estates through education, publicity and law enforcement. It would also work with relevant departments and property management companies to discuss the installation of closed-circuit televisions, improvement of leisure facilities and posting of anti-gambling banners, etc. Cooperation with non-government organisations was also in place to distribute leaflets and display posters to promote healthy recreational and sports activities for the elderly, such as participation in the “Senior Police Call” Scheme.

6. Ms Sarah CHUNG responded as follows:

- (a) The department was very concerned about gambling in public places in Yat Tung Estate. In this connection, the Estate Office had increased the frequency of inspections and sought assistance from the Police when the situation warranted. In the past three months, the Estate Office had conducted a number of joint operations with the Police, including distribution of leaflets at the locations concerned to advise residents not to engage in illegal gambling. The department had recently held discussions with the Police on combating gambling activities in Yat Tung Estate. The following measures would be taken vigorously to suppress gambling activities, including maintaining close contact with the Police and establishing a specific liaison channel for exchange of intelligence, with a view to making the fight against gambling activities more effective. Furthermore, the department would step up publicity to make the public aware of the consequences of gambling in public housing estates, in terms of compliance with tenancy agreements as well as the law.
- (b) The department would also work with local centres to encourage the public to participate in healthy activities. The department was reviewing the situation and making changes to the design of recreational facilities in the public areas within the estate, including the removal or modification of tables, chairs and recreational facilities in gambling blackspots, and even the installation of video cameras.
- (c) She thanked the Police for deploying additional manpower to conduct special patrols in Yat Tung Estate.

7. Mr Eric KWOK made the following comments:

- (a) He had informed the Police upon receipt of the complaints and the Police conducted joint operations promptly. According to the information provided by the management company, more than 20 police officers were deployed to the Golden Bull Plaza to carry out an operation on 25 October. He expressed his appreciation to the Police for this.
- (b) Regarding the figures provided by the Police, a total of 319 complaints had been received, 46 persons had been arrested and fines of about \$2.3 million had been imposed in the past three years. These were very alarming figures. It proved that gambling in and around Yat Tung Estate was very serious. Since the last term of the Council, the Police had successfully cracked down on a number of gambling establishments, such as the mahjong stalls in Golden Bull Plaza, Sha Tsui Tau Village, Yat Tung Estate as well as gambling stalls operated inside containers in a village behind Caritas Charles Vath College four or five years ago.
- (c) The Police said that they would organise activities for the elderly under the “Senior Police Call” Scheme. In fact, the majority of males did not like to participate in such activities. The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (“NAAC”) had also organised activities for the elderly but over 90% of the participants were females. He felt that it was difficult to attract males to such activities and hoped that the departments concerned would try to do something to solve this problem.
- (d) He thanked the HD for taking action to modify the public facilities. After the enforcement action on 25 October, he was again told that gambling activities had resurfaced within 48 hours, which indicated that the crackdown operation could only achieve temporary results. He said the root of the problem was the lack of facilities for the elderly in public housing estates. The elderly got nothing to do, so they just gathered to chit-chat and then to gamble. He opined that apart from removing the facilities and providing intelligence to the Police for enforcement action, the HD should also liaise with local non-governmental organisations, such as the NAAC, to discuss how to provide recreational activities in the district for residents, males in particular, to participate.

8. Ms Denise LI responded as follows:

- (a) She clarified that the number of complaints related to gambling at Golden Bull Plaza received by the Lantau Police District in the past three years was 89, involving a fine of \$230,000.
- (b) At present, there were about 200 male members actively participating in the “Senior Police Call” Scheme. In order to attract more elderly males in the district to participate in the Scheme, the Lantau Police District

invited the Football Association of Hong Kong to assist in organising elderly walking football. This activity adopted a walking mode without physical contact and was very suitable for the elderly. The Police District would continue to organise similar activities in the hope of attracting more elderly males in the district to participate.

9. Ms Sarah CHUNG responded as follows:

- (a) The department was preparing to co-operate with local centres to organise thematic workshops and groups to promote anti-gambling awareness. It was hoped that the elderly would actively participate.
- (b) Regarding modifications to the public areas and recreational facilities in the estate, the department would need to give careful thoughts as the original design of the facilities had its specific purpose and cautious examinations were necessary in making any changes.

10. The Chairman suggested that the HD should install surveillance cameras in the estate and put up publicity banners at black spots to achieve a deterrent effect.

(Ms LAU Shun-ting joined the meeting at about 2:03 pm; Mr HO Siu-kei joined the meeting at about 2:09 pm; Mr HO Chun-fai joined the meeting at about 2:13 pm)

### III. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District

(i) Cultural Activities  
(Paper CACRC 17/2022)

11. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms Merry LIM, Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”).

12. Ms Merry LIM briefly presented the paper.

13. Members noted the content of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries  
(Paper CACRC 18/2022)

14. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms Polly CHU, Senior Librarian (Islands), LCSD.

15. Ms Polly CHU briefly presented the paper.

16. Members noted the content of the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities  
(Paper CACRC 19/2022)

17. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms Alice CHOW, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, LCSD.

18. Ms Alice CHOW briefly presented the paper.

19. Mr Eric KWOK expressed concern about the recreational and sports activities in the Islands District. At the District Council meeting held last week, both the Civil Engineering and Development Department and the LCSD had participated in the discussion on the planning of enhanced sports and recreational facilities in Tung Chung East. At that time, he asked the LCSD whether the department had promoted related activities for the skateboard ground in Tung Chung North Park. In the Paper prepared for this meeting, the department stated that four “Skateboarding Fun Day for Youth” activities had been organised with a total of 62 participants. In other words, each event had an average of about 15 participants, which showed that the activities were well received. He appreciated that the LCSD had organised skateboarding activities, which was a kind of extreme sports, and hoped that the department could organise more diversified skateboarding activities to make the best use of the venue. Apart from the Fun Day, the department could also organise training courses on a regular basis, like those fitness classes conducted throughout the year. He said that he had participated in such activities before and found them very good. He asked if the department would consider introducing new training courses on extreme sports in the coming year and organising competitions to promote the sports, thus facilitating local performance in the international arena. He hoped that the LCSD would consider his suggestion.

20. Mr FONG Lung-fei suggested that the LCSD should organise chess competition in Tung Chung to attract participants of all ages, with the elderly in particular, in order to curb their gambling behaviour. He said that many of the elderly were retirees and some were recipients of the Old Age Living Allowance. They did not have many recreational activities and therefore often gather together for gambling. By organising large-scale chess competition, government departments could encourage the public to participate in non-gambling activities and thus minimise gambling in the district.

21. The Chairman considered that LCSD’s recreational activities were not adequately promoted. He suggested that the department should work with the Islands District Sports Association and various local communities to enhance publicity of the activities for better results.

22. Ms Alice CHOW took note of Members’ views on skateboarding and chess activities and said that the department would actively consider Members’ suggestions at the time of activities planning next year, subject to the availability of resources and

technical support from the National Sports Associations concerned. She also thanked the Chairman for his comments. The department would enhance publicity and continue to co-operate with the Islands District Sports Association in organising activities.

#### IV. Reports by Working Groups

##### (i) CACRC Activities Working Group

###### 1. “Islands District Cultural Festival 2022”

The “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR” was held from 22 to 23 August at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall and on 6 November at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall. The “Islands District Council Presents: Golden Songs Concert in Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” was successfully held on 31 August 2022 at the Auditorium of Tsuen Wan Town Hall.

###### 2. The “18 District Councils Greening Spots Exhibits” of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2023

This year, the Hong Kong Flower Show Committee had again invited the Islands District Council (“IDC”) to participate in the “18 District Councils Greening Spots Exhibits” of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2023. The Working Group decided to use the materials submitted by the H.K.S.K.H Tung Chung Integrated Services last year as exhibits.

###### 3. Invitations to 18 District Groups for Performances at the 56th Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo

The Chinese Manufacturers Association of Hong Kong (“CMA”) had invited the IDC to nominate a local group to perform at the 56th Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo to be held from December this year to January next year. The Working Group had sent letters to invite proposals from local organisations and non-profit making organisations. Eventually, it was decided to submit the application of the Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association to the CMA.

##### (ii) Islands District International Day of Disabled Persons Working Group

23. The “Ocean Park Fun Month” event was running from 3 to 28 November 2022. The Working Group had already recruited participants from the Islands District through local rehabilitation agencies and transportation to and from the venue would be arranged for the participants.

24. In addition, to mark the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Disabled Persons, the Hong Kong Disneyland was sponsoring persons with disabilities from the

18 districts and one of their accompanying carers for complimentary one-day park tickets from October 2022 to March 2023. The Working Group had already recruited participants and distributed the free park tickets through local rehabilitation organisations.

25. Mr Eric KWOK said that the “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR” was particularly popular at the post-pandemic period. The tickets allocated to his office were gone within hours. Those who failed to get one grumbled and even questioned whether he had distributed some tickets “in private”. He could only explain to the residents that the number of tickets was limited. If the pandemic situation stabilised next year and activities returned to normal, he hoped that more tickets could be allocated to Members’ offices for distribution to the public.

26. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that for the “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR” event held in August, only half of the maximum capacity of the venue at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall was available due to the pandemic situation. Hence, the number of tickets available was limited. As for the shows held at the Hong Kong City Hall on 6 November, the allowable seats had increased to 80% of the maximum capacity of the venue. The Working Group understood that residents of the Islands District loved Cantonese Opera and had distributed tickets to Members as far as possible.

27. Mr Randy YU opined that other Members had faced the same situation as Mr Eric KWOK. He said that for the events organised by the IDC, regardless of the number of shows, tickets always fell short of demand and the residents were far from happy. He opined that consideration could be given to organise more shows next year. Nonetheless, given this year’s situation, available capacity of the Tsuen Wan Town Hall and the Hong Kong City Hall were just set at 50% and 80% respectively for pandemic prevention purpose. Even if more shows had been held, he believed the tickets would still be insufficient. He said that almost all the elderly residents on Lantau Island were fans of Cantonese Opera and he believed that the same applied to other districts such as Tung Chung, Peng Chau, Cheung Chau, etc. Therefore, he hoped that the Working Group, when hiring venues from the LCSD, could book more dates. Venues like the Hong Kong City Hall was particularly well located to facilitate access by residents of various districts. Henceforth, more residents from the outlying islands could participate in the coming events.

28. The Chairman asked Members to consider endorsement of the reports of the two Working Groups.

29. Members unanimously endorsed the reports of the Working Groups.



V. Any Other Business

30. No further issues were raised by Members.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

31. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 3 January 2023 (Tuesday).

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