

(Translation)

Island District Council
Minutes of Meeting of District Facilities Management Committee

Date : 16 May 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 Hon-kuen, Ken (Chairman)

Mr HO Chun-fai (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH

Mr HO Siu-kei

Ms WONG Chau-ping

(Arrived at around 2:10 p.m.)

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe

Senior Executive Office (District Management),
Islands District Office

Mr LEE Lap-chi, Alfred

District Secretary, Islands District Office

Mr LI Ming-yau

Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

Ms LEUNG So-ping, Selina

Senior Executive Officer (Planning)21,

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms WONG Hoi-ming, Helen

Architect (Works)4, Home Affairs Department

Mr Ken TONG

Senior Architect,

Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development
Consultants Ltd.

In Attendance

Ms WONG Ka-ming, Grace

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2,

Islands District Office

Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia

Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West),

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie

District Leisure Manager (Islands),

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly

Senior Librarian (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms NG Ching-sum, Rain

Executive Officer (District Council)2,
Islands District Office

Absent with Apologies

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

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**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and Members to the meeting.

2. Members noted that Mr CHOW Yuk-tong was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2022

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

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without other amendments.

(Ms WONG Chau-ping arrived at around 2:10 p.m.)

II. Report on the Services of the Public Libraries in Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department between February and March 2022  
(Paper DFMC 11/2022)

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms Polly CHU, Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to meeting to present the paper.

6. Ms Polly CHU briefly presented the paper.

7. Members noted the paper.

III. Report on the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department's recreational and sports facilities in Islands District (February to March 2022)  
(Paper DFMC 12/2022)

8. The Chairman welcomed Ms Currie SIU, District Leisure Manager (Islands), LCSD, to the meeting to present the paper.

9. Ms Currie SIU briefly presented the paper.

10. Mr Randy YU said Mr YUNG Chi-ming had mentioned the issue of lifeguards in another meeting. He attributed the delay in the leisure facility reopening schedule in Islands District due to inadequate manpower of lifeguards. He asked LCSD whether there were sufficient lifeguards and whether the facilities were opened as much as possible.

11. Mr WONG Man-hon made the following comments:

(a) As per Paragraph 4 in the paper, the horticultural maintenance services for leisure facilities were provided by outsourced contractors, and the quality of their services was satisfactory in general. He said a lot of members of the general public approached him and reported to him that flower beds in the parks outside the elderly centre in Mui Wo and opposite Mui Wo Swimming Pool were not maintained properly. Furthermore, some facilities in the parks had been fenced off for more than a decade. As far as he knew, the fences were put in place to prevent intrusion by cattle. Fencing off the facilities did not solve the problem and no further arrangement was detailed in the paper. He urged LCSD to require the contractor to make improvements by enhancing its horticultural maintenance quality.

(b) He opined that LCSD should have notified residents in advance of the upcoming maintenance of leisure venues, detailing the dates of commencement and completion of works. During the pandemic, the maintenance work was delayed. As the number of infections declined, maintenance worker began to repair the washrooms. He asked LCSD whether they would adjust the maintenance plan in view of the changes in epidemic situation. He was also concerned about whether the renovation of the soccer pitch in Mui Wo Playground could be completed by late May as stated in the paper.

12. Mr FONG Lung-fei asked about the renovation progress of the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre. He noted that the Sports Centre had been closed for some time because of the pandemic and asked if the progress would therefore be expedited.

13. Mr YUNG Chi-ming was concerned about the usage of the Cheung Chau Beach. The Annex I of the paper showed that the numbers of visitors to the Beach in February and March were rather low. Though the Beach was closed because of the pandemic, as shown in past data, the number of visitors to the Cheung Chau Beach was generally higher than that of other beaches. He asked if the low numbers were attributable to the shortage of lifeguards or other factors. He hoped LCSD would explain the situation.

14. Mr HO Chun-fai said he learnt from the news a few days ago that a woman developed hypothermia as a result of being stuck in quicksand. Luckily, a cleaner found her in time and called the police. He asked LCSD whether lifeguards would be assigned to regularly monitor the beaches with binoculars when the beaches were closed during the pandemic so as to minimise accidents. He urged LCSD to take the problem seriously.

15. Ms Currie SIU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) There were nine gazetted beaches managed by the LCSD in Islands District. LCSD had reopened as many beaches as possible after reviewing the existing lifeguard manpower. From 5 May, LCSD had reopened 15 gazetted beaches in the city, three of which were in Islands District, i.e. Pui O Beach, Silver Mine Bay Beach and Hung Shing Yeh Beach. LCSD was aware of the situation at the Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau. She had inspected the beach during the holiday, and found many residents having fun there. For the time being, the lifeguard manpower of the Islands District was at maximum capacity. While LCSD was still hiring seasonal lifeguards, the hired ones were joining the workforce gradually. She said that the Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau was prioritised for lifeguard service. If new recruits could be deployed to join the current team at the beach, it would be possible to resume lifeguard service from early June. Furthermore, the reason for the low visitor numbers in February and March was that it was winter. The number of visits to Hung Shing Yeh Beach was higher because many hikers passed by. In the past, it was not uncommon for the number of visits to Cheung Chau Beach to reach 2,000 or 3,000.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD proactively deployed newly recruited lifeguards to Islands District. The lifeguard service at the Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau was resumed on 2 June.)

- (b) As for the management of leisure facilities, the Mui Wo River Silver Garden outside the elderly centre in Mui Wo was an “Inclusive Park for Pets”, meaning that residents could walk their leashed pets in the park. LCSD would pay special attention to the plants in the flower beds there and conduct improvement works when necessary. As for the fenced off area outside the Mui Wo Swimming Pool, it was originally an area

for fitness facilities and there might be management issues. The rationale behind the construction of the fence was to prevent cattle from getting in. LCSD would follow up on the reasons for fencing it off for ten years.

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, the LCSD had contacted the office of Mr WONG Man-hon to follow up on the location of the landscaping flower beds and plant species.)

- (c) She agreed that information on recreation and sports venues requiring maintenance should be released to members of the general public in advance. When the basketball field of Mui Wo Playground was closed for maintenance the previous year, members of the general public told LCSD that the notices posted were too small for them to take note of the basketball field's closure in November. LCSD then conducted the maintenance in phases so as to minimise the impact on the residents. Furthermore, the work had not been suspended during the pandemic. However, as construction materials could not be delivered to Hong Kong owing to the suspension of factory production in the Mainland China, LCSD could only complete the maintenance work of the basketball field, and it had been reopened. Given that the delivery of materials for the washrooms and changing rooms had been resumed, the work had begun immediately. LCSD and work departments would catch up on the progress as much as possible so that the work could be completed as scheduled.

(Post-meeting note: The renovation of the soccer pitch of Mui Wo Playground was completed on 2 June and the soccer pitch was reopened for public use.)

- (d) There were two renovation works at the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre, including the flooring replacement of the table tennis room and the arena. While the work in the table tennis room was completed, the works in the arena commenced as planned, without any delay because of the pandemic. LCSD expected it to be completed by late June and the venues to be reopened for public use in early to mid-July.

(Post-meeting note: The flooring replacement of the arena of the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre had been finished and the venue was reopened for public use since 1 June.)

- (e) The accident in the Upper Cheung Sha Beach was attributed to the prolonged heavy downpour for days prior to the accident. Rainwater mixed with sand created a slippery surface, which formed quicksand in

parts of the areas of the beach. Unwittingly, the member of the public stepped on the area and became trapped. She was subsequently saved by a lifeguard and a cleaner. The police were immediately called and she was sent to a hospital for treatment. After the accident, staff members were instructed to inspect the sand area and place traffic cones, or close off the location so as to remind members of the public of the quicksand.

16. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said two of the nine beaches in Islands District were in Cheung Chau. He wondered why it was not feasible to open either of them. LCSD had sent representatives to conduct site visits and observed that the two beaches were popular with visitors. He wondered who would be liable in case of accident happened when no lifeguards were on duty. Furthermore, considering that many lifeguards lived in Cheung Chau, he asked LCSD why they could not be stationed at the beaches in Cheung Chau. He reiterated his discontent over the closure of the two beaches in Cheung Chau.

17. The Chairman said there was an influx of tourists to Cheung Chau during the holidays. It was not ideal if LCSD failed to deploy lifeguards to the beaches. In case of accident, LCSD would bear an undeniable responsibility. He asked LCSD whether they would consider a compromise solution, such as reopening the beaches in phases.

18. Ms Currie SIU clarified that lifeguards were deployed to the Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau, but there were not sufficient lifeguards to provide service for the entire beach. Furthermore, LCSD had arranged days off on weekdays for them so that manpower could be reserved for weekends or public holidays when there would be more visitors at the beaches. She reiterated that the lifeguards currently available would provide basic services, which included beach management, regular patrol and monitoring, such as checking whether dogs had entered the beach area and whether members of the public had violated the group gathering regulation, as well as giving advice as appropriate. LCSD would proactively follow up on the matters about the service commencement of the seasonal life guard so as to provide lifeguard service at the Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau as soon as possible.

19. Mr YUNG Chi-ming asked about the number of lifeguards living in Cheung Chau. LCSD was supposed to have such information in order to figure out the manpower required for beach reopening. However, he believed LCSD had no idea of the figure.

20. Ms Currie SIU asked Mr YUNG whether he wanted to know about the number of lifeguards deployed to beaches in Cheung Chau who were living in Cheung Chau, or the number of people in Cheung Chau who were qualified lifeguards.

21. Mr YUNG Chi-ming would like to know both figures. He stressed that many lifeguards lived in Cheung Chau and many of them might have been deployed outside Cheung Chau. He opined that LCSD should let them serve Cheung Chau as far as possible.

22. Ms Currie SIU encouraged eligible Cheung Chau residents to apply for seasonal lifeguards, so as to increase the number of lifeguards for deployment to Islands District. She said that about half of the lifeguard team at the Tung Wan Beach currently lived in Cheung Chau. She appreciated that they loved their home and would like to work at the beaches in Cheung Chau.

23. Mr HO Chun-fai said the above-mentioned quicksand accident alerted the alarm. From his observation, on rainy days, the mountain streams would run to the spot where the accident happened on that beach. The Pui O Beach shared the same risks. He urged LCSD to put up warning signs to remind members of the public, so as to avoid the recurrence of the accident.

24. Mr WONG Man-hon noted that the pandemic situation was consistently subsiding. He asked when LCSD would reopen the Mui Wo River Silver Garden near Mui Wo Market for public use.

25. Ms Currie SIU said the Mui Wo River Silver Garden had not been closed during the fifth wave of pandemic. The gate was installed by LCSD to deter intrusion by cattle. The public was welcomed to use the venue for activities such as balance bikes and Tai Chi. As to when the amphitheatre would resume accepting applications for non-designated use activities, LCSD had not received any new instructions at present. She would inform Mr WONG Man-hon upon further notice.

#### IV. Utilisation and improvement works of Community Halls in Islands District (Paper DFMC 13/2022)

26. The Chairman welcomed Mr Joe LEE, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of Islands District Office (IsDO) and Mr Alfred LEE, District Secretary of IsDO, to the meeting to present the paper.

27. Mr Joe LEE briefly presented the paper.

28. Mr Eric KWOK said the improvement works of the audio-visual system of the Tung Chung Community Hall had been proposed for quite a while and as stated in the paper, the tender exercise for the work would be carried out in the middle of the year. He earnestly hoped that the works could be completed before the end of the current term of the District Council (DC). He also asked whether the IsDO was confident in achieving the goal.

29. Mr Alfred LEE said after Members requested for the enhancement of the audio-visual system, the IsDO has submitted funding application to the Home Affairs Department (HAD) subsequently, and the application was approved last year. Since the commencement of this financial year, the IsDO had been urging the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to commence the procedures of site visiting and quotation. If the plan went well, the works could be finished within this financial year.

30. Mr Randy YU noted that, in Paragraph 5 of the paper, the Tung Chung Community Hall was opened for two nights as a temporary night heat shelter and the number of users was two. He understood that most residents in Tung Chung had air-conditioning at home, but some might still need the temporary heat shelter. But for the sake of environmental conservation, the IsDO might consider opening a smaller room for the shelter when the number of users was low. This could save the electricity bill as well as reduce the carbon emissions. He asked the IsDO whether it could make this arrangement to better make use of the resources. As far as he knew, there was a conference room in the Community Hall, and he suggested it should be used as the temporary night heat shelter. The electricity bill and carbon emissions involved accounted for only 5% of the total of the entire Community Hall. He hoped the IsDO would consider his suggestion.

31. Mr Joe LEE said the conference room in the Tung Chung Community Hall could be used as the temporary night heat shelter when the number of users was low. But since the conference room was currently used for the storage of anti-epidemic materials, the arrangement could not be made for the time being.

32. Mr Randy YU suggested moving those anti-epidemic materials to other places of the Community Hall so as to make the conference room available.

33. Ms WONG Chau-ping was glad to hear the suggestion made by Mr Randy YU and supported turning the conference room into the temporary night heat shelter to save resources.

V. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects  
(Paper DFMC 14/2022)

34. The Chairman welcomed Ms Grace WONG, Assistant District Officer (Islands)2 of IsDO, Mr LI Ming-yau, Senior Inspector of Works of IsDO, Ms Selina LEUNG, Senior Executive Officer (Planning)21 of LCSD, Ms Helen WONG, Architect (Works)4 of HAD and Mr Ken TONG, Senior Architect of Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development Consultants Ltd. to the meeting to present the paper.

35. Ms Grace WONG presented the paper and Members were invited to note this paper.

36. Mr Eric KWOK asked the HAD how would they handle the new minor works proposals in the district after revising the arrangements for the district minor works projects.

37. Members had the following discussion regarding the “Conversion of the cycle parking area adjoining Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into children’s playground and fitness corner” (IS-DMW370):



38. Mr Eric KWOK said that the feasibility study of the project had begun and he enquired about its progress. He said that there was a lack of children's play equipment in Tung Chung West. Currently, the population of Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung Estate and Yu Tai Court was approximately 12,000, 46,000 and 6-7,000 respectively. Despite the tremendous demand, there was no large-scale children's playground in the district. The small children's playground near Yu Tai Court was under the purview of the LCSD, while the others were under the purview of the Housing Department (HD), and they were all equipped with simple facilities only. As stated in the relevant paper, the HD was about to commence the foundation works for the five public housing blocks in Areas 42 and 46, and the population intakes of these public housing estates were scheduled to commence in phases between 2025 and 2026. The expected population growth in Tung Chung West would be around 28,000 and many would be families with children. He stressed that children's play equipment was crucial to children's growth. The proposed works had been under discussion for a long period of time but it remained in the stage of feasibility study. He requested the departments concerned to follow it up proactively.

(Post-meeting notes: The initiation of the works for the "Conversion of the cycle parking area adjoining Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into children's playground and fitness corner" (IS-DMW370) was endorsed by the District Facilities Management Committee of Islands DC on 10 May 2021. The Works Section of the HAD appointed a consultancy in June 2021 to conduct a feasibility study.)

39. Ms WONG Chau-ping said this work had been discussed repeatedly and was supported by Members. The location concerned had long been vacated and enhancement was needed. She mentioned that stakeholders of the villages nearby should first be consulted before any facilities were built by the departments concerned. This would avoid going against the traditional, cultural practices and the feng shui of the villages. The departments should maintain close contact with villagers so as to keep them abreast of the works details.

40. Mr Randy YU understood that as the remaining 17 DCs were unable to hold their meetings due to insufficient number of district members, the Government suspended the role of the DC in the implementation of district minor works. The "Repair/replacement works of the gateway of Peng Chau Ferry Pier" (IS-DMW207) and the "Conversion of the cycle parking area adjoining Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into children's playground and fitness corner" (IS-DMW370) had been established as district minor works items earlier. He requested for their latest updates.

41. Ms Grace WONG responded as follow:

- (a) Under the revised arrangements for district minor works, the IsDO and the LCSD would maintain close liaison with residents and various local groups. After taking into account the community's views, they would put forward appropriate district minor works projects. In addition, as for the works projects with funding approved by the DC prior to the

revised arrangements, the departments concerned would proceed with their implementations if the project proposals were feasible.

- (b) The Transport Department was exploring a feasible proposal for the “Repair/replacement works of the gateway of Peng Chau Ferry Pier” (IS-DMW207). The progress of the works would be updated in the paper for the next meeting.

42. Ms Selina LEUNG said the LCSD had been following up the feasible study of the “Conversion of the cycle parking area adjoining Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into children’s playground and fitness corner” (IS-DMW370) with the HAD. The departments were still working on the details. She invited the responsible consultancy representative to supplement on the project.

43. Mr Ken TONG added that the consultancy was actively compiling the feasibility study report. Two difficulties were encountered during the course, first, the location concerned has a lot of trees and so a detailed tree survey was required; second, a cable from CLP Power Hong Kong Limited was found under the ground. It took up a vast area, stretching diagonally from the ground under the proposed entrance to the venue. The consultancy then discussed the solution with the CLP Group and was told that a diversion could be done to relocate the cable from its original place. Due to the high wattage of the cable, complicated procedures might be involved and the diversion would take around 18 months. The consultancy was actively discussing the matter with the CLP Group, hoping that the works could be commenced as soon as possible.

44. Ms WONG Chau-ping said she repeated on several occasions that the location of the works project IS-DMW370 was only a road apart from the village opposite. She therefore requested the departments concerned to discuss with Members the facility layout and directions. She invited the departments to give a direct response.

45. Ms Selina LEUNG said this work project was still in the stage of feasibility study and so no layout was available for the time being. However, the LCSD noted the opinions of Ms WONG Chau-ping and would consult the stakeholders when the design layout or relevant information was available.

## VI. Any Other Business

46. There was no other business.

## VII. Date of Next Meeting

47. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on 11 July 2022 (Monday).

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