(Translation)

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

Date : 24 January 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 HO Siu-kei (Chairman) Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP Mr WONG Man-hon, MH Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH Mr HO Chun-fai Mr FONG Lung-fei Ms LAU Shun-ting

In Attendance

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office,
Islands), Lands Department
Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5,
Environmental Protection Department
Senior Transport Officer/Islands2, Transport Department
Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Manager District Relation,
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited

Secretary

Ms NG Ching-sum

Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine (Vice-Chairman) Ms WONG Chau-ping Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

<u>Absent</u>

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Welcoming remarks

<u>The Chairman</u> welcomed representatives from government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting.

2. Members noted that Ms Josephine TSANG, Ms WONG Chau-ping and Mr Eric KWOK were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. <u>Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2021</u>

3. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the above minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and organisations and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

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

5. <u>Mr Randy YU</u> requested the Chairman to follow up the matter related to the appearance of the chimney of the incineration plant in Shek Kwu Chau as stated in paragraph 17(b) of the minutes of the previous meeting. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had distributed the artist's impression of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) for Members' perusal after the previous meeting. He said that the chimney would look like a sail in shape if viewed from afar at the coast. However, if it was viewed from afar in South Lantau, he considered that the shape would still look like that of an ordinary chimney and could not meet Members' expectation of enhancing the appearance of the chimney. He said that the residents had been hoping for a more aesthetically pleasing chimney. Although the EPD had

changed the design of the chimney to a sail shape, the chimney still looked like an ordinary one from the residents' perspective. He therefore worried that the revised design might not address the concern of residents. He asked the Secretariat to write to the EPD, requesting the department to submit the relevant papers on the external design of the chimney to the South Lantao Rural Committee (SLRC) and conduct a streamlined consultation with the village representatives and members of SLRC to understand the views of residents on the chimney design.

6. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the EPD did not follow up on this matter.

7. <u>Mr Randy YU</u> clarified that the EPD had distributed the layout plan of the IWMF to Members for perusal, and hoped that the EPD would simultaneously distribute the information to the SLRC for consultation, so as to allay the residents' doubts and concerns.

8. <u>Mr HO Chun-fai</u> stated that, as indicated by Mr Randy YU, when the chimney was to be viewed by residents of South Lantau from afar, it would still look like an ordinary chimney as if no improvement had been made in the design. He therefore requested to revise the design prior to construction of the IWMF, so that the sail-shaped design would face the residential premises in South Lantau.

9. <u>Mr YUNG Chi-ming</u> indicated that since the design concerned had been in rounds of discussions held at the Council meetings, the consultation exercise should simultaneously be conducted with residents of South Lantau and Cheung Chau Rural Committee if the EPD wanted to change the facing direction of the facility.

10. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the Secretariat to write to the EPD for follow up and advise the EPD that the consultation exercise on the design of the incinerator's chimney should simultaneously be conducted with the SLRC and the Cheung Chau Rural Committee.

(Post-meeting note: The Islands District Council (IDC) Secretariat had relayed the views of the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC) to the EPD.)

II. Question on the Environmental Protection Department projects – "Hong Kong Island -Northeast Lantau Link", "Reclamation for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands" and "Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands Development": Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap 499) (Paper TAFEHCCC 6/2022)

11. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5 of the EPD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and the EPD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

- 12. <u>Mr Randy YU</u> briefly introduced the question.
- 13. <u>Mr Gordon PEI</u> expounded on the written reply of the CEDD.
- 14. <u>Mr Esmond YAU</u> expounded on the written reply of the EPD.

15. Mr Randy YU thanked the EPD for the reply. He pointed out that the EPD had not yet made any brief introduction of the project when the consultation paper concerning the "Reclamation for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands" was received by Members. However, at that time, the EPD requested Members to comment on the application for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Brief within the consultation period of 14 days. Since the contents of the report involved professional knowledge, it would be difficult for Members to raise comments on them within the deadline specified. For this reason, he submitted the question in the hope that the EPD would make clarification on Members' doubts. He was pleased to see that the EPD had listed out in the written reply the environmental issues that had to be handled, which had already covered a wide range of areas. He said that Members were very concerned about the project and requested the departments concerned to consult and hold discussion with Members again after they had completed the studies on various issues and obtained the respective data. Besides, many Members were concerned about the impact of the project on the shipping channels nearby although the issue was not included in the EIA report. He reiterated that the related information was not provided in the consultation conducted previously, making it difficult for Members to express their concerns and causing them to be at a loss in this aspect. Nevertheless, submission of the question could not only reduce Members' worries and concerns, but also put Members' concerns over the item on record by means of the minutes of the meeting.

16. <u>Mr WONG Man-hon</u> said that Members understood the Government's need for land to address housing needs, but were dissatisfied that the Government neglected the needs of local residents. He noted that the Government had planned to construct additional roads in South Lantau to relieve the traffic problem in the area. Nevertheless, it seemed that the project had already been cancelled. Despite the possible negative impact of the Reclamation for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands on nearby residents, the Government did not have any measures to improve the transport network in the area. It was unfair and disappointing to local residents indeed. He said that the consultation period for the project was too short, and the project did not strike a balance among the resident needs. As the project would have a serious impact on the sailing time of vessels providing service among Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, South Lantau and Mui Wo, he urged the departments concerned to actively explore ways to improve the transport network in South Lantau.

17. <u>Mr HO Chun-fai</u> said that many residents were concerned about the negative impact of the reclamation for the artificial islands which, upon completion, might

change the current in the waters off the Shap Long Tsuen and Chi Ma Wan Peninsula. He was concerned about the damage that might be caused to the facilities provided at the waterfront of Chi Ma Wan Peninsula and the residential premises at Shap Long Tsuen due to rising of sea level during typhoon. He enquired whether the EPD had conducted relevant studies and taken follow-up actions. After reflecting that the consultation period of 14 days was not enough, he urged the EPD to allow sufficient time for consultation so that Members would be able to collect opinions from residents and fishermen in the local community.

18. <u>Mr Gordon PEI</u> said that the current stage was just the first step in the CEDD's submission of an EIA report application. The CEDD would report the findings to the District Council (DC) after the completion of the study. He would also reflect Members' views concerning the impact of the project on the traffic in South Lantau to the responsible staff. Although Members' concern about the change in the waters off was not one of the study items of the EIA, the technical assessment of such change would be conducted in the study on the project of the artificial islands in the Central Waters.

19. Mr Esmond YAU said that the EPD issued the EIA Study Brief on 24 December 2021, which mainly provided project proponents with directional guidance of project implementation and as a reminder of environmental issues that should be studied in depth. Pursuant to the relevant legislation, the EPD would, upon receipt of the project proponents' application, conduct a public inspection for review and comment for a period of 14 days and issue the EIA study brief concerned within 45 The CEDD would prepare the EIA report in the light of the EIA Study Brief, davs. and the EPD would process the report in accordance with the legal requirements. As the EPD also noted, the CEDD had indicated that it would consult the DC in a timely Regarding the change in the current as mentioned by Mr HO Chun-fai, manner. although the study items of the EIA did not include that about climate change, the EPD learnt that the relevant issue had already been included in the study on the project of the artificial islands in the Central Waters. Moreover, the EIA Study Brief had required the CEDD to examine the impact of the reclamation on water quality and marine ecosystem.

20. <u>Mr Randy YU</u> moved and read out an impromptu motion: "I hereby move a motion as follows: "It was necessary to include the study on the link between Kau Yi Chau and Mui Wo via Hei Ling Chau, which was proposed in the original plan of 'East Lantau Metropolis', in the feasibility study stated in Paper TAFEHCCC 6/2022, which would be carried out under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance for the 'Hong Kong Island - Northeast Lantau Link'." The impromptu motion was seconded by Mr WONG Man-hon.

21. <u>The Chairman</u> approved the impromptu motion moved by Mr Randy YU. No amendment was proposed by Members.

22. <u>The Chairman</u> invited Members to vote the impromptu motion by a show of

hands.

23. Members voted by a show of hands. The result was seven votes for and one abstained. The impromptu motion was endorsed.

(Members voted for included: the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai and Ms LAU Shun-ting. Mr FONG Lung-fei abstained. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong temporarily left the meeting.)

III. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper TAFEHCCC 5/2022)

24. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Ms WONG Ka-ming, Grace, Assistant District Officer (Islands)2 and Mr LI Ming-yau, Senior Inspector of Works of the Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to present the paper.

25. <u>Ms Grace WONG</u> briefly presented the paper and asked Members to note the paper.

26. <u>Mr LI Ming-yau</u> added that "The improvement works to the staircases near Sea View Terrace, Pak She San Tsuen, Cheung Chau" (IS-DMW580) and "The improvement works to the footpath between lamp post no. H9408 and VA4174 at Fa Peng, Cheung Chau" (IS-DMW691) had substantially been completed.

- 27. Members' discussions on the various projects were as follows:
 - (a) <u>The improvement to the footpath at Tai San Street and Tai San Back</u> <u>Street, Cheung Chau (IS-DMW610)</u> <u>Provision of seats near Cheung Chau Ferry Pier, Cheung Chau</u> <u>(IS-DMW702)</u>

<u>Mr YUNG Chi-ming</u> said that although it had been some time since Project No. IS-DMW610 was proposed, it was still in the stage of investigation and project design. He therefore enquired when the works would be commenced. He also enquired why no progress was observed for Project No. IS-DMW702, which was launched on 8 September 2021.

(b) <u>Construction of rainshelters at Nam Bin Wai, Mui Wo (IS-DMW644)</u> <u>The improvement works to the paving near the public toilets at</u> <u>Silvermine Bay Waterfall Garden, Mui Wo (IS-DMW703)</u></u>

<u>Mr WONG Man-hon</u> enquired about the progress of the above projects. He hoped that they could be launched expeditiously to beautify the environment and facilitate visitors' use. He could offer assistance in solving the difficulties encountered by the IsDO or the problems involving private land and so on, if any.

 (c) <u>The Improvement works to the footpath at Tai O Pak Shan, Tai O</u> (IS-DMW628) <u>Provision of rainshelters at Tai O Waterfront Promenade (IS-DMW710)</u>

<u>Mr Randy YU</u> enquired about the progress of the above projects.

- 28. <u>Mr LI Ming-yau made a consolidated response as follows:</u>
 - (a) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW610, as there were a lot of works projects going on in Cheung Chau, the tender exercise of the project would be conducted when circumstances allowed.
 - (b) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW702, the date stated in the paper was a typographical error and the correct date of works commencement should be 8 January 2022. The contractor concerned was conducting the construction materials preparatory works.
 - (c) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW644, the IsDO had submitted the application to the Lands Department for land allocation and could conduct the tender exercise after the land was allocated to IsDO. It was expected that the tender exercise would be conducted in mid-2022.
 - (d) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW703, as department had previously indicated that a certain part of the works site possessed ecological importance, the design was revised accordingly, the location of the works site was changed, and written consent had been signed by the owner concerned. The tender exercise could be carried out immediately if the departments concerned had no further comments.
 - (e) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW628, the actual location of the works had been confirmed and it was expected that the tender exercise would be conducted in the second quarter of the year.
 - (f) Regarding Project No. IS-DMW710, as the rainshelters would not be provided on solid ground, after consulting CEDD, IsDO decided that the rainshelters would be constructed on pier structure. As it would take time to design, the works schedule was not available at the moment.

29. <u>Mr Randy YU</u> said that the Works Section should provide the latest design of Project Nos. IS-DMW703 and IS-DMW710 to the DC Members of the constituencies concerned and the Rural Committees concerned for perusal once they became available.

IV. <u>Report by Working Group</u>

30. Members noted the reports of the TAFEHCCC Activities Working Group and the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group.

V. <u>Matters concerning the Working Groups under TAFEHCCC in 2022-2023</u>

31. <u>The Chairman</u> said that IDC had held the election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of various committees under IDC (2022-2023) at the full council meeting on 13 December 2021. IDC also agreed that the Chairman of each committee would preside over the election of Convenors and Vice-Convenors of the working groups under the committee as necessary. He suggested that the two Working Groups under TAFEHCCC should follow the past practice and elect the respective Convenors and Vice-Convenors at the first working group meetings to be held.

32. Members had no comments.

VI. <u>Any Other Business</u>

33. There was no other business.

VII. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

34. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 28 March 2022 (Monday).

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