

(Translation)

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

Date : 24 July 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 NG Man-kit (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr HO Chun-fai

Ms WONG Chau-ping (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

Mr WAN Yeung-kin

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

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 CHAN Ka-leong

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHEUNG Suk-man

Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2,
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr CHAN Kai-chung

Administrative Assistant/Lands (Acting)
(District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department

Mr HON Chin-wai, Willis

Engineer/20 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5,
Environmental Protection Department

Ms FUNG Sin-yee, Mini

Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2,
Transport Department

Mr WONG Tsz-chun, Adrian

Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr HO Lee-yip

Ms Anthea CHAU

Manager District Relation,
New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited
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 CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

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**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 CHAN Kai-chung, Administrative Assistant/Lands (Acting) (District Lands Office, Islands) of the Lands Department, who stood in for Mr TSANG Wai-man.
- (b) Mr HON Chin-wai, Willis, Engineer/20 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), who stood in for Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon.

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 29 May 2023**

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 Mr HO Siu-kei, the Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr WAN Yeung-kin,

Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting. Mr Randy YU briefly left the meeting.)

(Mr WONG Man-hon and Ms WONG Chau-ping joined the meeting at around 2:05 p.m.)

II. Question on the sewerage facilities near Hi Shi Road and Golden Dragon Garden in Cheung Chau

(Paper TAFEHCCC 25/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Ka-leong, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)<sup>2</sup> of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the FEHD and the Drainage Services Department (DSD) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

6. Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit briefly presented the question.

7. Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit said that the DSD had promptly explained the situation to him after receiving the question. The DSD stated that they were currently planning for sewage collection improvement works in Cheung Chau and would conduct survey works in due course and explore sites for provision of the sewers. He said that he would maintain close liaison with the DSD regarding the abovementioned matters.

8. Mr CHAN Ka-leong said that the FEHD would continue to monitor the conditions of septic tanks to prevent environmental and hygiene problems caused by overflowing.

III. Question on the appearance of goats on South Lantau Road, Lantau Island

(Paper TAFEHCCC 26/2023)

9. The Chairman said that the written reply of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

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

11. Mr HO Chun-fai said that there had been only eight to ten goats on Southern Lantau Island two years ago, hence there had been rare occurrences of goats getting onto the traffic lanes back then. However, with the continuous breeding of goats, there were currently 20 to 30 of them on Southern Lantau Island and their numbers were expected to keep growing. He pointed out that South Lantau Road was winding. Even though the Highways Department had laid anti-skid dressing on the road surface, if dark-brown goats walked onto the traffic lanes on rainy days, drivers might have

difficulty noticing them, increasing the likelihood of traffic accidents. He hoped the AFCD would respond as to how to address this issue.

12. Mr Adrian WONG said that they would look into the issue and provide a written reply after the meeting.

13. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that members of the public were required to obtain a licence before they could legally keep livestock such as chickens and pigs. He enquired the AFCD whether the public needed a licence to keep goats and whether they would be subject to the AFCD's regulation if they kept goats.

14. Mr Adrian WONG said that as set out in the written reply, people were not required to obtain a licence for keeping goats in the nine districts in the New Territories, namely the Islands, Kwai Tsing, North, Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long Districts.

15. Mr HO Chun-fai said that he was aware of the legislation but he believed that the current situation was affecting traffic and posing a threat to the safety of drivers. He therefore suggested that the AFCD should explore appropriate solutions for the problem. He said that the villagers were happy to coexist with goats, which were timid in nature, but they were concerned about the goats wandering onto the traffic lanes. He asked the AFCD whether they would consider adopting practices from other countries, such as installing fences on both sides of the road to alleviate the problem.

16. The Chairman pointed out Members' concern about potential traffic accidents caused by goats straying onto the traffic lanes. He considered that the AFCD should investigate whether the goats were wild or domestic.

17. Mr Adrian WONG said that he would gather the information provided by the attendees after the meeting to investigate and follow up on the situation. The AFCD would request proper management of goats by their keepers to ensure the protection of animal welfare. If the identity of the keepers could not be confirmed or if the activities of the goats were not properly controlled, the AFCD would exercise its authority conferred by the Pounds Ordinance (Chapter 168) to capture the goats.

18. Mr Randy YU suggested that the AFCD should conduct an on-site inspection with Mr HO Chun-fai.

19. Ms WONG Chau-ping enquired whether the AFCD would, in addition to conducting on-site inspections, undertake promotional activities such as posting posters and banners to educate the public on the situation. She expressed concern that goats getting onto the traffic lanes would not only cause danger to themselves but would also affect traffic safety. Therefore, she urged the AFCD to address the issue as soon as possible.

20. Mr Ken WONG said that it would be quite difficult to capture the goats, and expressed concern that they would injure the pedestrians if they were allowed to roam

freely. He was of the view that the AFCD should review whether the existing legislation was outdated and consider implementing a licensing system for keeping goats to prevent an unchecked growth in their numbers. He also agreed with Mr Randy YU's suggestion for the AFCD to conduct an on-site inspection with Mr HO Chun-fai to better understand the situation of the goats. Additionally, he raised concern about the problem of uncontrolled breeding of cattle due to a lack of management.

21. Mr Randy YU said that, based on his understanding, goat farmers in the New Territories did not wish for the Government to introduce a licensing system for keeping goats. He suggested that the AFCD should, at this stage, conduct an on-site inspection with Mr HO Chun-fai and request the keepers to manage the goats properly, or take other follow-up actions depending on the circumstances. He considered it more appropriate for the chairmen of the Rural Committees to have further discussions on the licensing system at a meeting of the New Territories Heung Yee Kuk.

22. Mr Eric KWOK said that, according to the information from the AFCD, more than 70 water buffaloes on Lantau Island had been sterilised. He believed that the number of water buffaloes would be on a natural and gradual decrease as they aged and died. He also said that he had in hand information about the keepers of the goats and would pass it to the Secretariat after the meeting. He understood that the owners were aware of the issue of goats straying onto the traffic lanes and there had been no such incidents in the past month.

23. Mr FONG Lung-fei considered that police assistance should be sought if there were goats getting onto the traffic lanes, so that the police could contact the goat keepers to handle the problem.

24. Mr Randy YU clarified that the figures for sterilisation Mr Eric KWOK had just mentioned were for brown cattle but not water buffaloes. He requested the AFCD to provide Members with the sterilisation numbers for water buffaloes and brown cattle after the meeting.

25. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to follow up with Mr Eric KWOK regarding the information about the goat keepers after the meeting and relay the information to the AFCD for further action. He urged the AFCD to closely monitor the situation and to request that the keepers to properly manage the goats to avoid affecting traffic safety.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had forwarded the information about the goat keepers provided by Mr Eric KWOK to the AFCD for follow-up on 25 July 2023, and had forwarded the sterilisation figures for water buffaloes and brown cattle on Lantau Island provided by the AFCD to Members on 25 August 2023. After the meeting, the AFCD had contacted Mr HO Chun-fai to explain the actions taken in response to the related complaints. The AFCD had also deployed staff to the relevant locations three times to find the goats but to no avail. On 5 September 2023, the AFCD had reported the investigation results to Mr HO Chun-fai, assuring that they would continue to closely monitor the situation.)

IV. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects  
(Paper TAFEHCCC 27/2023)

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

27. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper and asked Members to take note of the content of the paper. She said that the IsDO had attempted to devise a preliminary timetable for each project. However, as some of the projects might require coordination with other departments, or obtaining written consent from landowners or land licence holders before commencement, the progress of these projects might be affected. She emphasised that the IsDO would actively follow up on all projects. In addition, Members had suggested to install solar panels and USB charging facilities for the pavilion of “Provision of pavilion near jetty at Sha Lo Wan, Tai O” (IS-DMW678). However, the trial project at the pavilion of Fan Lau Pier, Tai O showed that the cost of the abovementioned facilities were relatively high. Besides, results of the most recent survey had also indicated that the usage of the Sha Lo Wan Pier was relatively low. Therefore, the IsDO would not consider installing solar panels or USB charging facilities for the time being and hoped that Members would understand and take note of the arrangement.

28. Mr WAN Yeung-kin enquired about the timetables for the Improvement works of drainage channel near house no. 7 at Tai Yuen Village, North Lamma (IS-DMW700) and the Improvement works of footpath near lamp post no. 35703 at Yung Shue Long New Village, North Lamma (IS-DMW714). He pointed out that rainwater from the hills in Tai Yuen Village would flow onto the ground during rainy days, making the surface slippery and posing safety risks for pedestrians. He also mentioned that the slope adjacent to the railing in Yung Shue Long New Village was steep, and it would become slippery for cyclists during rainy weather. He therefore hoped that the two projects would commence as soon as possible.

29. Ms Ellie TSE said that the tender exercise for the project IS-DMW714 was expected to take place in mid-2024. As for the project IS-DMW700, the IsDO would follow up on its progress after the meeting.

30. Mr CHAN Chak-chung added that the project IS-DMW714 was currently in the progress of applying for land allocation and the IsDO would follow up on the progress closely. The project was expected to commence within three months after the tender exercise.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had completed the preliminary site survey for the project IS-DMW714. As the DSD was currently laying drainage pipes in that location, the IsDO would wait until the completion of works by the DSD before discussing the project details with the stakeholders.)

V. Report by Working Group

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

31. 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 Paper I). Members were welcomed to comment on the report.

32. Members had no comment.

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

33. 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 Paper II). Members were welcomed to comment on the report.

34. Members had no comment.

VI. Any Other Business

35. No further business was raised by Members.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

36. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 25 September 2023 (Monday) at 2 p.m.

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