

(Translation)

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

Date : 25 September 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
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Mr WAN Yeung-kin
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr TANG Chi-sum, Terence

Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands) 5, Housing Department

In Attendance

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie
Mr CHAN Chak-chung
Mr CHAN Ka-leong

Mrs RADFORD Kit-yee, Kitty

Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond

Ms FUNG Sin-yee, Mini
Ms LO Lai-ping, Rebecca

Ms Anthea CHAU

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/Islands 2, Transport Department
Senior Field Officer (Agricultural Extension) 1,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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 HO Chun-fai

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**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting. He introduced Mrs RADFORD Kit-ye, Kitty, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands (DLO, Is)), Lands Department, who succeeded Mr TSANG Wai-man.

2. Members noted that Mr HO Chun-fai was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 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: Chairman HO Siu-kei, Vice-Chairman NG Man-kit, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting)

II. **Question on the recycling of regulated electrical equipment**  
(Paper TAFEHCCC 32/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr TANG Chi-sum, Terence, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands) 5 of the Housing Department (HD) and Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5 of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting to respond to the

question. The written reply of the EPD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

6. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

7. Mr Terence TANG said that tenants of public rental housing (PRH) were not allowed to dispose of garbage and miscellaneous items in public areas of the building under any circumstances. If staff of the estate office found such situations, they would immediately ask the tenants concerned to clean up or remove the large furniture and miscellaneous items to designated abandoned furniture collection points in the estate. The estate office would also arrange for refuse collection service contractors to clean the collection points on a regular basis. He pointed out that collection points for e-waste were provided in all housing estates for temporary storage of the unwanted e-waste covered by the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. The estate office would arrange for the service contractors to collect the electrical equipment as needed based on the quantity of accumulated equipment. He said that the refuse at the location mentioned in the question had been properly cleared and the HD would strengthen manpower to deal with the situation.

8. Mr Esmond YAU expounded on the written reply of the EPD.

9. Mr FONG Lung-fei noted that the refuse at the location mentioned in the question had been removed and closed-circuit television system had also been installed by the HD. He thanked the HD for its follow-up actions. He was aware that some of the e-waste items had their motors and parts removed, leaving only the outer cases behind, which could easily accumulate stagnant water on rainy days and cause mosquito infestations. He hoped that the HD would step up monitoring efforts and introduce deterrent measures to improve the situation. He pointed out that some residents did not fully understand the statutory free removal service for e-waste and thought that they had to find an operator at their own expense to remove the used appliances. He enquired whether the aforementioned service was free of charge and if so, he would recommend the service to the residents. He considered that the service could help reduce the indiscriminate disposal of e-waste at refuse collection points (RCPs).

10. Mr Ken WONG considered the arrangement for the e-waste collection service in Peng Chau unsatisfactory. He said that it was difficult for residents to store the unwanted e-waste in their small houses, and given the remote locations of the Islands District, the operator for the EPD provided door-to-door collection service only a few days apart. As a result, many residents disposed of their unwanted e-waste at the RCPs for the sake of convenience. He pointed out that there were often abandoned refrigerators and television sets on the streets of Peng Chau, and some electrical appliances had their parts removed, leaving only the outer cases. According to the staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the outer cases were regarded as parts of the electrical appliances and had to be sent to the collection points of EPD near Nam Wan for processing by the operator for the EPD. However, the operator would only clear them up every few days. Therefore, shortly after the FEHD had cleaned them up, unwanted electrical appliances reappeared on the streets. He

hoped that the EPD could enhance the e-waste collection service, including increasing the frequency of the service and stepping up publicity so that the undesirable situation could be improved. He also hoped that the FEHD would put up notices to remind residents not to dispose of the e-waste at the RCPs of the FEHD.

11. Mr WAN Yeung-kin noticed that there were often discarded e-waste at the refuse collection point (RCP) at Yung Shue Wan on Lamma Island, and some electrical appliances were even dumped outside the RCP. He enquired whether EPD had set up a designated e-waste collection point at Yung Shue Wan. Furthermore, some residents and technicians for the installation of air-conditioners would sell the old air-conditioners to scrap dealers. He asked if scrap dealers were required to obtain a licence.

12. Mr Randy YU acknowledged the effectiveness of EPD's glass bottle recycling programme but expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of other recycling initiatives. He pointed out that many property management companies of housing estates failed to follow the guidelines in handling the recycling bins and simply sent the recyclables to landfills. He hoped that the EPD could strengthen its management of the service provided by the operator, including the door-to-door collection service for e-waste, and take into consideration the situations of the Islands District and optimise the services for the district, so that the effectiveness of the collection service could be enhanced. He hoped the EPD would consider the matter seriously and follow up on it.

13. Mr Esmond YAU thanked Members for their views. He said that more than 90% of the service cases of the EPD operator were booked by telephone, and the operator would generally provide door-to-door collection service within a week. He understood that the geographical environment of the outlying islands was special and the transportation might not be convenient. He would relay Members' views to the relevant section after the meeting and ask them to examine the feasibility of setting up designated e-waste collection points, optimise the booking procedures and make reference to the operation of the glass bottles recycle programme, with a view to improving the efficiency of the e-waste collection programme. Regarding the suggestion raised by Mr WAN Yeung-kin, he said that whether an individual needed to obtain a licence involved various considerations, such as the quantity of e-waste stored, whether the operation could be regarded as recycling in nature, and dismantling processes involved. The EPD would determine based on the actual situations. The EPD would arrange staff to visit the site after the meeting to understand the situations and would take follow-up actions if illegal activities were identified.

14. The Chairman suggested hanging banners at the RCPs in PRH estates to remind residents of the penalties for disposing of unwanted electrical appliances at RCPs, so as to enhance the deterrent effect.

15. Mr Terence TANG said that the HD had already stepped up the publicity efforts mentioned by the Chairman. He pointed out that most PRH residents followed the guidelines for disposing of unwanted electrical appliances, but some non-residents had taken the opportunity to dispose of the old electrical appliances at the RCPs when

the security guards were not paying attention. The HD would strengthen its manpower to deal with these situations.

16. Mr Ken WONG enquired whether it was an offence to dispose of used electrical appliances at RCPs. In his opinion, without the imposition of penalties, it would be difficult to improve the situation of indiscriminate disposal of used electrical appliances by the public, and the objective of environmental protection could not be achieved. Furthermore, he noted that the EPD had not provided clear guidelines on the types of electrical appliances that can be recycled.

17. Mr Esmond YAU said that according to his understanding, it was not an offence for the public to dispose of the e-waste at RCPs. However, the EPD encouraged the public to make use of the free door-to-door collection service. He pointed out that the EPD and the FEHD also had a mechanism in place for the transportation of e-waste disposed of at RCPs to WEEE-PARK for recycling.

18. Mr CHAN Ka-leong said that the FEHD would appeal to the public to properly dispose of the old e-waste items.

(Post-meeting note: Staff of the FEHD had displayed notices at relevant RCPs to remind members of the public that they might call the e-waste operator for the EPD and make an appointment for door-to-door collection service.)

19. The Chairman asked the EPD to take note of Members' views and hoped that the EPD would take into account the situation of the Islands District and co-ordinate with the FEHD to provide designated e-waste collection points in the district.

### III. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper TAFEHCCC 33/2023)

20. 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.

21. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper.

22. Mr Randy YU referred to the projects not yet completed in the captioned report. He believed that Members had the responsibility to follow up on the progress of these projects since they were funded by the District Council (DC). He asked the IsDO how DC Members in the next term could follow up on the progress of the projects. In addition, he noted that the sites of most of the aforementioned projects fell within the purview of the eight Rural Committees (RCs) of the Islands District. He asked if the IsDO would consider handing the projects over to the Rural Public Works District Working Group's meetings or the Islands District Rural Committee for follow-up.

23. Ms Ellie TSE said that except for some of the projects involving licensed land,

private land and land jointly used by departments, the implementation timetables of the remaining projects had been set out in the report. IsDO would continue to follow up on the progress of the various projects. Whether the projects should be followed up by the next term of the DC, the Rural Public Works District Working Group's meetings or the Islands District Rural Committee would be discussed later. Noting that Members were actively following up on the progress of the projects, she said that the IsDO would examine how to update Members on the details of the progress of the projects in the future after the meeting.

24. Mr WONG Man-hon said that the implementation of district minor works projects often required land allocation, but the relevant approval process took a long time. He enquired about the reasons for the long approval time. In addition, he believed that the DLO, Is should expedite the processing of matters related to people's livelihoods and should not simply attribute the delays to insufficient manpower.

25. Mr Randy YU said that in order to allow Members to continue to follow up on the progress of the projects, he suggested that the IsDO should consider dividing the projects not yet completed into groups according to the purview of the relevant RCs and handing them over to the relevant RC Chairmen for follow-up during the suspension of the operation of the DC, so that the progress of the projects would not be affected.

(Post-meeting note: During the suspension of the operations of the current DC term, the IsDO would, where appropriate, follow up with the Chairmen of RCs individually on the unfinished district minor works projects that had been approved for implementation with funding from IsDC. Tentatively, the IsDO would continue to report on the progress of such projects.)

26. Mr WAN Yeung-kin pointed out that some projects for the improvement of rural pathways or the addition of small-scale walkways had not commenced two to three years after funding was endorsed, and projects involving the addition of stormwater drains or road widening also took a long time to commence. He enquired about the reasons behind such delays.

27. Ms Ellie TSE responded that a number of works projects were currently underway on Lamma Island and the progress of some projects might be affected if the sites were being used by other departments for other projects. Members could contact the departments concerned and enquired about the progress of individual projects. On issues relating to the application approval process, she invited the DLO, Is to give a response.

28. Mrs Kitty RADFORD explained that upon receiving an application for land allocation from the department concerned, the DLO, Is would verify the land status of the site for the proposed works, and would post a notice on or near the site concerned after the completion of consultation (if required). Generally speaking, the primary

reason affecting the progress of land allocation approval was the receipt of objections. She would follow up with the relevant sections after the meeting to understand the progress of land allocation approval for individual projects and would further review the approval procedures.

29. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that stormwater drainage works were being carried out on Lamma Island. The departments concerned had undertaken to commence some of the works some years ago but there had been no signs of progress so far. She was worried that flooding might occur at individual locations if the works were further delayed. She enquired about the reasons for the slow progress of the works.

30. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said he had not found that the sites of the projects he referred to were being used by other departments. He pointed out that he had contacted the staff of IsDO many times and had conducted on-site inspections in respect of the village footpath improvement works, but he was dissatisfied that little progress had been made in the works during the past five years. He believed that the IsDO should explain clearly the status of the projects to Members (e.g. whether the projects would continue) and provide an implementation timetable for the projects so that Members could relay the information to the villagers. He enquired how he could contact the staff of the relevant sections for follow-up after the meeting.

31. Ms Ellie TSE pointed out that the IsDO would actively follow up on the projects the office was responsible for. If the works were not the responsibility of the office, IsDO would assist in relaying Members' views to the relevant departments for follow-up.

32. Mrs Kitty RADFORD said that the DLO, Is would contact Members after the meeting to better understand and follow up on the drainage works being carried out on Lamma Island.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is contacted Ms LAU Shun-ting regarding the stormwater drainage works on Lamma Island. The DLO, Is approved the land allocation application for the project and referred the relevant enquiries to the Drainage Services Department for follow-up. )

33. Mr CHAN Chak-chung said that he was not able to ascertain at present which project Mr WAN Yeung-kin was referring to. Regarding the drainage project for which Mr WAN and he had earlier conducted a site visit, the works would be carried out on a term contract basis. Generally speaking, the involvement of private land or the lack of drainage outfalls were the main reasons affecting the progress of drainage works. Moreover, he was not sure about the exact location of the village pathway works mentioned by Mr WAN. He would contact Members after the meeting for details of the works.

34. Ms Ellie TSE suggested that a further on-site inspection be conducted to confirm the scope of the works.

35. Mr WAN Yeung-kin agreed to the proposal of conducting another on-site inspection. He said that the site of the drainage project in question was located near Yung Shue Long New Village, and the works included the widening and extension of drains. As far as he knew, the site involved was government land and the related notice had been posted for over a year.

36. Ms LAU Shun-ting expressed dissatisfaction with the progress of the aforementioned project. To alleviate the concerns of both Members and the villagers, she hoped that the engineering team would conduct an on-site inspection as soon as possible to understand the situation.

37. Ms Ellie TSE said that if notices were posted at the site of the works, it should be possible to identify the relevant works departments. She emphasised that the IsDO had to first ascertain which project Members were referring to before they could take further follow-up actions.

38. The Chairman asked the IsDO to follow up on the matter. He said that even if some of the works were undertaken by other departments, the IsDO should keep in contact with the relevant departments to follow up on the progress of the works.

#### IV. Report by Working Group

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

39. 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.

40. Members had no comment.

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

41. 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.

42. Members had no comment.



V. Any Other Business

43. No further business was raised by Members.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

44. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.

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