

(Translation)

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

Date : 27 March 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 YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr HO Chun-fai

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LI Leong-ho

Senior Land Executive/Lantau (District Lands Office, Islands),
Lands Department

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 HUI Kar-nung

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TSANG Wai-man

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

Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon

Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau),

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond

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

Ms FUNG Sin-ye, Mini

Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2, Transport Department

Mr WONG Tsz-chun, Adrian

Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) 1,

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Ms Anthea CHAU

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 CHAN Lin-wai, MH (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

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**Welcoming Remarks**

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

2. Members noted that the Vice-Chairman Mr CHAN Lin-wai and Mr YUNG Chi-ming were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 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, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

II. **Question on the dangerous rocks on the roadside slope near lamp post FB6586 on Chi Ma Wan Road and the withered tree with risk of failure next to the village house near Tin Hau Temple**

(Paper TAFEHCCC 12/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr LI Leong-ho, Senior Land Executive/Lantau (District Lands Office, Island) of the Lands Department (LandsD) and Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon, Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the LandsD, the Tree Management Office (TMO) and the CEDD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

6. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.
7. Mr LI Leong-ho expounded on the written reply of the LandsD.
8. Mr Gordon PEI expounded on the written reply of the CEDD.
9. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:
  - (a) He thanked the LandsD, the TMO and the CEDD for their proactive responses. The village representative and he had visited and inspected the site in question on 26 March this year and found that the isolated rocks along the road had been removed. He commended the works of the LandsD.
  - (b) The old banyan tree shown in photo A was in good condition, but the roots were clinging to a boulder. Due to years of erosion from rainwater, some of the soil beneath the boulder had been washed away and the boulder was at risk of falling. He requested the LandsD to carry out upgrading works to stabilise the boulder, on the premise that the works would not affect the health of the tree.
  - (c) The large tree shown in photo B had withered and there was no need to arrange for an assessment by an arborist. As residents often took shade under the tree, he urged the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) to remove the tree before the typhoon season so that it would not collapse and endanger public safety.
10. Mr HO Chun-fai said that Cha Ma Wan Road was a major access road for the residents. He pointed out that the Rural Committee (RC) had already reported the issues of slope safety and isolated rocks to the LandsD two years ago. Subsequently, the Slope Maintenance Section (Slope Section) of the LandsD had conducted an inspection at the site and carried out preliminary upgrading works for the slopes at risk of landslide. At that time, the RC had proposed to stabilise all slopes at Chi Ma Wan Road, but the LandsD had advised that all of the slopes would be covered under the projects to be implemented in the future. However, even if there was no immediate risk of landslide on some road sections, the presence of protruding boulders and tilted trees posed safety hazards. Therefore, he considered that the LandsD should carry out slope stabilisation works as soon as possible. He said that the RC had drawn the attention of the LandsD to the problem again early this year and the LandsD had advised that the isolated rocks at risk of falling would be dealt with immediately, while an investigation would be carried out in March. He reiterated that the old banyan tree in Photo A was already tilting at a 45-degree angle and its roots were clinging to a boulder. He considered the situation similar to that of the tree collapse incident in San Shek Wan. If the old banyan tree collapsed, it would affect the nearby hillside graves and the consequences would be disastrous. Therefore, he believed that the tree should be removed. He called on the LandsD to follow up on the issue promptly to allay public concern. He also hoped that the LandsD could provide a response to his question as soon as possible so that he could

relay it to the villagers.

11. Mr Randy YU pointed out that Islands District Council Members and the villagers had been concerned about the safety of the slopes at Chi Ma Wan Road since 2021. He thanked the LandsD for its investigation work and concurred with the LandsD's written reply that the situation needed to be further reviewed. He pointed out that the road concerned was narrow, but it was also a major access road for residents. Therefore, the LandsD should carry out inspection on a regular basis and take follow-up actions in a timely manner. Furthermore, as the HYAB had not provided a written reply in respect of the question, he asked the bureau to provide information about the progress of the removal of the withered tree shown in Photo B.

12. Mr Ken WONG pointed out that the tree risk assessments carried out by the departments often focused on the current conditions of the trees, but failed to follow up on the subsequent changes caused by tree growth or changes in the environment, such as soil erosion. Experts of the TMO should not be easily swayed by the opinions of other people. He quoted the tilted and withered tree near the Holy Family School in Peng Chau as an example. Upon assessment, the tree expert had considered it necessary to remove the tree. However, the removal had been shelved eventually in the face of opposition from environmental groups. Six months later, the tree collapsed in a typhoon. It had been fortunate that no one got hurt in the incident. In addition, even though the departments concerned claimed that they would conduct timely inspections of the trees, it often turned out that no action had been taken after a lapse of six months or even a year. He reiterated that the departments concerned should inspect the trees on a regular basis. At the same time, they should make a reasonable forecast of the conditions of the trees in the future so that the risk of tree collapse could be minimised.

13. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the situation in question should not be ignored, as the trees might collapse under strong winds and damage the artificial slopes, resulting in landslides. She asked the department concerned to complete the repair works as soon as possible.

14. The Chairman thanked the guests who attended the meeting and responded to questions. He said that the Committee was concerned about the healthy growth of trees along Chi Ma Wan Road as well as the safety issues related to them. He believed that trees posing safety threats to the public should be removed. He asked the Secretariat to follow up on the work of the departments concerned.

15. Mr LI Leong-ho said that he would forward Members' views to the Slope Section of the LandsD and the HYAB after the meeting, and provide the Committee with updates as necessary.

(Post-meeting note: The Slope Section of the LandsD tasked an arborist to conduct a detailed assessment of the condition of the tree shown in Photo A. If necessary, contractors managed by the Slope Section would also carry out tree risk mitigation works on the advice of the arborist. The above work was expected to be completed by the end of June 2023. As regards the problem of isolated rocks reiterated by Mr KWOK

and Mr HO, the Slope Section had removed or stabilised the isolated rocks on Slope 14NW-A/C228 by mid-April 2023 in accordance with the recommendation of the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the CEDD. The HYAB had also arranged for a registered arborist to remove the withered tree shown in photo B on 28 April 2023. The HYAB provided photos of the site taken after the removal of trees in question for the Committee. The Secretariat forwarded the photos to Members on 5 May 2023. )

III. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects  
(Paper TAFEHCCC 13/2023)

16. 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.

17. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper and asked Members to take note of the content of the paper.

18. Members had a discussion on the “Provision of pavilion near jetty at Sha Lo Wan, Tai O” (IS-DMW678).

19. Mr Eric KWOK referred to the suggestion that he had made at the last meeting regarding the installation of solar panels on the roof of the pavilion and the provision of free mobile internet connection at the pavilion. He said that the IsDO had advised that the works would be difficult to implement due to the remote location of the site and the problem of poor signals. He enquired whether it was feasible to provide charging facilities at the pavilion.

20. Ms Ellie TSE said that solar panels and USB charging facilities were being installed at the pavilion at Fan Lau Pier in Tai O on a trial basis. Due to its proximity to the seaside, electrical installations at the pavilion were susceptible to salty air. As such, the IsDO was studying the feasibility of installing solar panels and charging facilities at such locations.

21. Mr CHAN Chak-chung added that even though the installations at the Fan Lau Pier Pavilion in Tai O had adopted an enclosed design, the installations were still affected by the salty air and salt crystals appeared near the plugs, resulting in a failure of power supply. As the proposed pavilion near jetty at Sha Lo Wan in Tai O would also be closed to the seaside, he was concerned that similar problems might occur. The IsDO was currently examining the feasibility of installing contactless charging facilities, but the quotation price for the installation of such facilities might reach up to \$100,000. The IsDO would actively consider the installation of the facilities at the pavilion in question.

22. Mr Eric KWOK pointed out that solar panels, mobile network facilities and charging facilities had been installed at the Pak Kok Pier on Lamma Island, which was also close to the sea. He suggested that the IsDO should make reference to it. As far

as he knew, some charging facilities adopted box-like design, which he believed could prevent the penetration of salty air. He hoped that the IsDO could further identify charging facilities that were suitable for the pavilion. He also agreed that the above quotation was too high. He considered that a price between \$10,000 and \$20,000 would be more reasonable.

23. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that she had contacted the CEDD and learned that only one or two installations at the Pak Kok Pier on Lamma Island were powered by solar energy, while the rest of them were powered by HK Electric. She suggested that the IsDO should gather more information about the installations from the CEDD.

24. The Chairman said that there was feedback from hikers and villagers that weeds had quickly reappeared shortly after the completion of grass-cutting work on the trail. He asked whether the IsDO would re-tender the grass-cutting contract for 2023-24.

25. Mr CHAN Chak-chung provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The charging facilities at the Fan Lau Pier Pavilion in Tai O had been designed with a cover, but it failed to completely block the salty air. Therefore, the IsDO was considering the use of contactless charging facilities.
- (b) Weeds would grow rapidly when there was more rain. Members could report to the IsDO the locations where the grass-cutting had not been fully completed. The IsDO would carry out inspections and follow up actively on the issue.

26. The Chairman expressed concern about the poor work performance of the grass-cutting contractor. As weeds had not been cleared thoroughly, they reappeared quickly on rainy days. He considered it a waste of public money and asked if the IsDO had formulated guidelines to gauge the performance of the contractor.

27. Mr CHAN Chak-chung explained that the IsDO required contractors to cut the grass grown on land within one metre on either side of the footpath. As the blades of the mowers could not be too close to the ground, about 20 to 30 mm of weeds might be left after mowing.

28. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that as Wong Lung Hang and Tung Chung River were the two main watercourses in Tung Chung, clearance of the watercourses was very important. She asked the IsDO to clear the weeds on a regular basis to prevent the river from overflowing and posing a safety threat.

#### IV. Report by Working Group

(i) Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change

### Committee Activities Working Group

29. 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.

30. Members had no comment.

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

31. 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.

32. Mr Eric KWOK said he had suggested that Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City (TCSAHC) should collect the feedback of participants of the Tung Chung Care Project 2022 “Love is at Your Side - Caring Amidst the Pandemic - Fly Together” (東涌關懷行動 2022 「愛在左右・疫境-關愛-伴翱翔」) “Colorful Life” Positivity Sharing Campus Programme (「色彩人生」正向分享校園計劃) at the end of the activities and send the report to the Committee. He wanted to obtain the relevant information. Furthermore, he hoped that the TCSAHC would provide the five short films produced during the Happy Discovery Short Film Production Course (「開心大發現短片製作課程」) for Members’ viewing. According to the paper, the closing ceremony of the project had been held on 26 February 2023. He enquired whether other Members had been invited to attend the closing ceremony.

33. Mr Randy YU said that he had attended the closing ceremony of the above project. He enquired whether the Secretariat had invited other District Council (DC) Members to attend the ceremony. He requested the Secretariat to invite all DC Members to the closing ceremony in the future. In addition, he asked the Secretariat to contact the TCSAHC for the short films and send them to Members for viewing.

34. The Secretary said that she would ask the TCSAHC to send the short films to Members after the meeting and invite all DC Members to attend the closing ceremony the next time.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the activity report of the Tung Chung Care Project 2022 “Love is at Your Side - Caring Amidst the Pandemic - Fly Together” (東涌關懷行動 2022 「愛在左右・疫境-關愛-伴翱翔」) “Colorful Life” Positivity Sharing Campus Programme (「色彩人生」正向分享校園計劃) and the links to the five short films produced during the Happy Discovery Short Film Production Course (「開心大發現短片製作課程」) to all Members on 5 May 2023 and 15 May 2023 respectively. As the collaborating organisation for the Tung Chung Care Project 2023-24 had not been confirmed, the Secretariat of the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group would relay Members’ requirements to the collaborating organisation in due course.)

V. Any Other Business

35. No further business was raised by Members.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

36. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 29 May 2023 (Monday) at 2 p.m.

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