

(Translation)

**Islands District Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of the**  
**District Facilities and Works Committee**

Date : 23 April 2024 (Tuesday)  
Time : 2:30 p.m.  
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,  
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present**

**Chairman**

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

**Vice-Chairman**

Mr HO Chun-fai

**Members**

Mr NG Man-kit  
Mr HO Siu-kei  
Mr NG Choi-wah  
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha  
Mr WONG Man-hon, MH  
Mr WAN Yeung-kin  
Mr YIP Pui-kei  
Mr LAU Chin-pang  
Ms LAU Shun-ting

**Attendance by Invitation**

Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Islands District Office
Ms HAU Lok-yiu, Cordelia	District Secretary, Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Chak-chung	Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

**In Attendance**

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie	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 HA Chung-wan, Joanne	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr KWOK Ka-ho	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing and District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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 YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick	Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr WAN Chi-kin, Vincent	Engineer/Lantau 5, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Kam-hung	Engineer/Islands (3), Highways Department

#### **Secretary**

Ms KWONG Tsz-wing, Wing	Executive Officer (District Council) 2, Islands District Office
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#### **Absent with Apology**

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

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#### **Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the government departments and Members to the meeting, and introduced Mr Patrick YEUNG, Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department in attendance.

2. The Committee agreed to accept the application for absence from the meeting submitted by Mr CHOW Yuk-tong.

#### **I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2024**

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

4. Members who attended the meeting had no other amendment proposals, and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

#### **II. Question on the construction of a fitness corner and addition of recreational and sports facilities at Cheung Chau Sai Tai Road (DFWC Paper No. 13/2024)**

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Mr CHAN Kam-hung, Engineer/Islands (3) of the Highways Department (HyD) to the

meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the LCSD and the HyD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

6. Mr NG Man-kit briefly presented the question.
7. Ms Joanne HA expounded on the written reply of the LCSD.
8. Mr CHAN Kam-hung expounded on the written reply of the HyD.
9. Members expressed their views as follows:
  - (a) The LCSD should increase the number of fitness equipment in Cheung Chau North and Cheung Chau South to meet the demand of local residents. In addition, since many elderly residents would make use of the waterfront railings to do exercise, some of the screws on the railings had been loosened. Members requested the relevant departments to follow up on it.
  - (b) Although fitness equipment was provided in the Lutheran Village Children's Playground, Cheung Chau and the Don Bosco Road Garden, their locations were not convenient for the residents. Furthermore, there was a robbery at Don Bosco Road Garden years ago, and since then, most of the residents went to Sai Tai Road for exercise. Members therefore hoped that the LCSD would provide additional fitness equipment at Sai Tai Road.
  - (c) As the seats and arbours managed by the LCSD along Sai Tai Road were in disrepair, Members requested the Department to carry out repairs as soon as possible to avoid posing a threat to the safety of residents.
10. Mr CHAN Kam-hung said that the HyD had already cleared the weeds on the road surfaces, the kerbs and the central dividers maintained by the Department. Regarding the loosening of screws on the waterfront railings along Sai Tai Road, the HyD would follow up if the facilities were under their maintenance.

(Post-meeting note: The HyD sent staff to inspect the site and arranged for the maintenance works of the railings, which were expected to be completed by the end of May.)
11. Ms Joanne HA took note of Members' views, and advised that the feasibility study on the project "Construction of a Fitness Corner on the vacant Government land at Sai Tai Road in Cheung Chau" was underway. The LCSD would consider Members' suggestions as resources permitted. As regards the seats and arbours in need of repair, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) had arranged for repair works in May 2024. The LCSD would follow up on the progress of the repair works and report to Members.

12. The Chairman thanked the LCSD and the HyD for their positive responses and called on the LCSD to consider Members' suggestions.

III. Question on tree planting and greening work in public open spaces in Cheung Chau  
(DFWC Paper No. 14/2024)

13. The Chairman said that the written reply of the LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

14. Mr NG Man-kit briefly presented the question.

15. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Some residents in Cheung Chau had reported that during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Mangkhut, many trees along the waterfront between Pak Tai Temple and Sai Wan had collapsed; but over the years, the relevant departments had yet to replant trees at the above locations. Furthermore, many planters in the vicinity had also been damaged and were in need of repair. Members thanked the LCSD for its prompt response and follow-up work. It was understood that about half of the tree replanting work had been completed so far.
- (b) Members thanked the LCSD for referring issues such as damaged road surfaces and the subsidence of an electric meter box to relevant departments for follow-up.
- (c) Members were pleased to note that the LCSD would consider planting different types of flowers for the enjoyment of the public and tourists.

16. Ms Joanne HA thanked Members for their comments. She said that the LCSD had referred the problem of subsidence of the electric meter box to the ArchSD for follow-up. The LCSD would closely follow up on the progress and report the progress of tree planting and greening work to Members in a timely manner.

(Post-meeting note: The repair works for the electric meter box was completed on 20 May 2024.)

IV. Question on the second phase development of the Tung Chung Swimming Pool  
(DFWC Paper No. 15/2024)

17. The Chairman welcomed Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

18. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.

19. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) A Member asked how the LCSD calculated the number of persons that could be accommodated in a swimming pool. The Member considered it inappropriate to assess the utilisation of swimming pools on the basis of attendance. Citing the Tung Chung Swimming Pool as an example, the Member pointed out that some facilities of the swimming pool had been closed sometimes, which naturally led to low attendance figures. On the other hand, some residents complained that the Tung Chung Swimming Pool was crowded during certain periods of time, and users could not swim comfortably in the pool. Members therefore suggested that consideration should be given to assess the utilisation of the swimming pool in terms of attendances as a percentage of the total number of persons the pool could accommodate, so as to reflect the actual situation.
- (b) Currently, the training pool of the Tung Chung Swimming Pool could not be opened due to manpower shortage. As the swimming season was approaching and the population of Tung Chung would continue to grow, Members considered it necessary for the LCSD to keep the situation in view.

20. Ms Joanne HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) According to the information available, the total number of attendances for the Tung Chung Swimming Pool in 2023 was less than half of its maximum capacity. The total number of attendances was calculated by summing up daily attendances across the morning, afternoon and evening sessions.
- (b) The recruitment of lifeguards this year was less than satisfactory and had affected the opening arrangements for swimming pools in all 18 districts in Hong Kong, including the Islands District. Based on the available manpower, the LCSD could only open part of the swimming pool facilities. The Department was currently recruiting seasonal lifeguards and would continue to explore ways to increase the number of lifeguards.

21. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Given the remote location of the Islands District, if the swimming pools in the district could not be opened, the residents would have to spend a long time and incur high travelling expenses to go to the swimming pools in the urban areas, causing them significant inconvenience. Members hoped that the LCSD would take into account the special circumstances of the Islands District and accord priority to manpower

allocation for the swimming pools in the district.

- (b) The LCSD had informed Members earlier that the Mui Wo Swimming Pool had to be closed in the evening due to insufficient manpower. Members were of the opinion that the number of lifeguards available could be increased if the Department continued with the past practice of allowing lifeguards to work overtime.
- (c) The closure of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool in the evening would affect children learning to swim as well as residents who intended to swim after work. Members suggested that the LCSD should adjust the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool; such as opening the pool for the first and second sessions from Monday to Wednesday and the second and third sessions from Thursday to Saturday, so as to facilitate residents to swim in the evening.
- (d) Currently, the training pool of the Tung Chung Swimming Pool could not be opened due to insufficient lifeguards. During the maintenance of the main pool in September, lifeguards would be deployed to the training pool, which would then be reopened. Members considered the situation unsatisfactory. Furthermore, given the scarcity of cultural and recreational facilities in the Tung Chung New Town and the strong demand for swimming pools, Members hoped that the Department would keep in view the opening arrangements of the swimming pool facilities in the district.
- (e) Given the special circumstances of the Islands District, the Tung Chung Swimming Pool was not built in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Members had received feedback from residents that many people travelled across districts to use the Tung Chung Swimming Pool. Taking into account the above situation and the increasing population of Tung Chung, Members considered it necessary for the LCSD to deploy its manpower flexibly to ensure that the swimming pool would be open to meet the demand of residents.
- (f) The shortage of lifeguards had serious implications, and the lack of lifeguards at beaches might pose a safety threat. Members considered it necessary for the LCSD to follow up on the issue and examine in detail the reasons for the shortage of lifeguards; for instance, the uncompetitive remuneration package which had resulted in lifeguards choosing to work at non-public swimming pools or the overall insufficient supply of lifeguards.
- (g) Members suggested that the LCSD should make reference to the recruitment procedures and hourly pay package for lifeguards in private clubs, and recruit additional part-time lifeguards to increase the supply of lifeguards.

- (h) Members hoped that the LCSD could notify Members in advance if the swimming pools could not be opened, so that they could inform residents of the relevant information.
- (i) As there was no swimming pool in Cheung Chau, residents had to travel to the urban areas to use the facilities, which was very inconvenient. In the past, an elderly person died of hypothermic shock while swimming at a beach. At present, children in the district seldom went swimming at beaches. Members therefore requested the LCSD to consider building a swimming pool in Cheung Chau

22. The Chairman said that some residents had expressed the view that the closure of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool in the evening had been very inconvenient to office workers and students. He asked the LCSD to respond to the proposal of adjusting the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool.

23. Ms Joanne HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The LCSD understood the inconvenience caused to the public by the temporary closure of the swimming pool due to shortage of manpower. She had communicated with the headquarters of the Department and strived to increase the number of lifeguards for the Islands District. The Department would also explore ways to optimise the service arrangements of the Tung Chung Swimming Pool and the Mui Wo Swimming Pool, so as to minimise the impact on the public.
- (b) As regards the temporary opening arrangements of swimming pools, the LCSD would display notices outside the swimming pools and publish the relevant information on the website of the Department.
- (c) The LCSD noted the proposal for the construction of a swimming pool in Cheung Chau, and factors such as changes in the population of Cheung Chau and resource utilisation would be taken into account if the proposal was to be considered.
- (d) Owing to the shortage in manpower, the Mui Wo Swimming Pool could only be opened for two sessions a day for the time being. According to past data, the number of attendances for the first session had been higher than that for the third session. Therefore, if the swimming pool was open for the second and third sessions, swimmers for the first session might be affected. The LCSD would examine the proposal of adjusting the opening hours to cater for different needs as far as possible.

24. The Chairman understood that there were more swimmers at the Mui Wo Swimming Pool during the first session, but hoped that the LCSD could arrange for the opening of the evening session one or two days a week.

25. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members agreed to the suggestion of the Chairman, and pointed out that the information on the temporary opening arrangements for swimming pools was displayed at the bottom of LCSD's webpage in small and inconspicuous fonts. Members suggested that the Department should change the way the information was presented, such as displaying the information in a pop-up window.
- (b) Members were of the view that the LCSD should consider assessing the utilisation of the swimming pools on the basis of the utilisation rate instead of the number of attendances, so as to reflect the actual usage of swimming pools during different sessions.
- (c) The Government was planning to outsource lifeguard services, but due to a low budget, it had failed to attract bids from private companies. Moreover, the low wages of lifeguards made it difficult to bring in new blood. Members also pointed out that the Mui Wo Swimming Pool currently only needed two more lifeguards for the evening sessions, and the problem could be solved if the LCSD arranged for lifeguards to work four hours overtime. In this connection, Members hoped that the Department would consider implementing the proposal of allowing lifeguards to work overtime in the Islands District.
- (d) The problem of insufficient lifeguards had existed for many years, and Members considered that the LCSD needed to solve the problem as soon as possible. Members asked the Department about the lifeguard shortage in the other 17 districts and the details regarding the manpower shortage at beaches in the Islands District.

26. The Chairman enquired about the time required by the LCSD to complete the assessment on the proposal of opening the Mui Wo Swimming Pool for one or two evening sessions a week and the proposal of arranging overtime work for the existing lifeguards.

27. Ms Joanne HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The LCSD was studying the feasibility of adjusting the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool and would need to consult the Headquarters upon completion of the study. She would update Members on the latest situation in two weeks.
- (b) It was difficult to provide the actual number of lifeguards as the number of lifeguards changed frequently. Furthermore, the LCSD stipulated under the guidelines that swimming pools could only be opened if a certain number of lifeguards were available to provide lifeguard service.



- (c) The arrangement regarding overtime work for existing lifeguards was part of the overall policy of the LCSD and could not be determined by individual districts. As far as she knew, such arrangements were already in place for some swimming pools. The main reason for the adjustment of the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool was that the basic supply of manpower could not meet the standard required to provide lifeguard services; therefore, she considered that the aforementioned proposal might not be appropriate.

28. The Chairman made a conclusion as follows:

- (a) He asked the LCSD to not only publish information about the temporary opening arrangements for the swimming pools on their website but also notify Members by email, so that Members could disseminate the information on social networking platforms.
- (b) He asked the LCSD to liaise with Members regarding the latest arrangements for the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool in two weeks, so that Members could disseminate the information to the residents.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD opened the third session of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool (i.e. from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) on every Friday with effect from 10 May 2024, and replied to Members through the IDC Secretariat on 3 May 2024 regarding the adjustment to the opening hours of the Mui Wo Swimming Pool and the enhanced arrangement of announcements provided on the LCSD website.)

V. Report on the Services of the Public Libraries in Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department between January 2024 and February 2024  
(DFWC Paper No. 9/2024)

29. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

30. Ms Candy CHUNG presented the paper.

31. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) The South Lamma Public Library was open only on Tuesdays and Fridays, which was inconvenient for residents to use the library services, resulting in the low utilisation rate of the library. Members had written to the LCSD suggesting that the opening hours of the library adjust from Tuesdays and Fridays to Tuesdays and Saturdays. Members recognised the challenges the Department faced in manpower deployment, but hoped that the Department would consider the above proposal.

- (b) The service point of the Yat Tung Estate Mobile Library was located next to Ying Yat House. As this location was less frequented by residents, the utilisation rate of the service point was low. Members suggested the LCSD consider relocating the service point to a location near the bus terminus, i.e. near the rear entrances of Chi Yat House and Sin Yat House, so as to attract more residents to use the service point.

32. Ms Candy CHUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The LCSD received a letter from Members in May 2023, requesting for an adjustment to the opening hours of the South Lamma Public Library. The Department had replied in June of the same year, explaining that there were considerations regarding the staffing arrangement. Currently, both the South Lamma and North Lamma Public Libraries were operated by the same team of staff. If the South Lamma Public Library was to be opened on Saturdays, additional manpower would be required. The Department was looking into the staffing arrangement and would provide Members with an update on the progress in due course.
- (b) The Department needed to consider a number of factors when selecting the location of a service point for a mobile library, including the adequacy of parking spaces, the availability of power supply in the vicinity, and whether the pedestrian flow generated and the parking location of the mobile library would affect road users. The LCSD would examine the feasibility of providing a mobile library service point at the location suggested by Members.

33. The Chairman requested the LCSD to conduct an on-site inspection at Chi Yat House and Sin Yat House with Members after the meeting to study the feasibility of the proposal and report back to Members within one month.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD made arrangement for Members, along with representatives from the Housing Department, to carry out an on-site inspection on 29 April 2024 in respect of the proposal of relocating the service point of Yat Tung Estate Mobile Library from the existing location at Ying Yat House to a location near Sin Yat House and Chi Yat House, which had a higher pedestrian flow. The Department would continue to follow up on the related arrangements.)

VI. Report on the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department's recreational and sports facilities in Islands District (January to February 2024)  
(DFWC Paper No. 10/2024)

34. The Chairman welcomed Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

35. Ms Joanne HA briefly presented the paper.
36. Members expressed their views as follows:
- (a) Members considered that usage rates could effectively indicate the usage of various recreation and sports facilities. Members also enquired about the usage rates of the facilities in the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre other than the arena, such as the table tennis room, the fitness room and the multi-purpose activity room.
  - (b) Currently, the usage rate of the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre was at a high level of 85%. In view of the increasing population in Tung Chung, the LCSD should plan ahead and increase the number of recreation and sports facilities to meet the rising demand.

37. Ms Joanne HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines of the Planning Department, the LCSD planned the provision of the sports and recreation facilities for the Islands District on the basis of the population of the district. Currently, the number of sports and recreation facilities in the Islands District met the relevant planning standards. The Department would closely monitor the development and population changes in the Islands District, including Tung Chung, and review the supply and utilisation of recreation and sports facilities in the district to assess whether there was a need for additional facilities.
- (b) She would provide Members with the usage rates of facilities in the Tung Chung Man Tung Road Sports Centre other than the main stadium after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD followed up on the issue mentioned in paragraph 37(b) on 25 April 2024.)

38. The Chairman pointed out that the population of Tung Chung was expected to increase by around 100 000 in six years. He hoped that the LCSD would provide additional recreation and sports facilities in Tung Chung as early as possible to cope with the anticipated growth in demand. He understood that the Department would need to co-ordinate with other departments in the construction of recreation and sports facilities, and said that Members would be able to offer assistance if necessary

## VII. Utilisation of Community Halls in Islands District (DFWC Paper No. 11/2024)

39. The Chairman welcomed Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe, Senior Executive Officer

(District Management) and Ms HAU Lok-yiu, Cordelia, District Secretary of the Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to present the paper.

40. Mr Joe LEE presented the paper.

41. Members noted the content of the paper.

VIII. Overview of projects under the District Minor Works Programme of the Islands District Office  
(DFWC Paper No. 12/2024)

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

43. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper. She added that the estimated expenditure for the two priority projects under the District Minor Works Programme was about \$500,000 each. If Members had any works proposals, they were welcome to submit them to the IsDO.

44. Members noted the content of the paper.

IX. Any Other Business

45. The Chairman said that during the discussion on Agenda Item IV “Question on the sewage pipe laying works in South Lantau” at the last meeting, Members had requested the Transport Department (TD) to follow up on the road upgrading works for South Lantau Road. The Secretariat had written to the TD regarding the matter and the written reply of the TD was tabled for Members’ reference.

46. A Member recalled that Members had pointed out two years ago that a layby situated at a bend at the southern hills had posed a safety hazard to motorists, and had requested the departments concerned to carry out earth cutting works to improve the bend. However, the current response from the TD was that the site concerned fell within the boundary of a country park, and therefore further discussions with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were required. Considering that it had been an urgent item, the Member wondered why the works had not yet commenced.

47. The Chairman considered that if the improvement works to the layby at the bend were not related to the sewage pipe laying works in South Lantau, the matter should be raised at the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting for discussion.

48. Members concurred with the opinion of the Chairman, and noted the content of the written reply.

X. Date of Next Meeting

49. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10 a.m. on 18 June 2024 (Tuesday).

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