## (Translation)

# Islands District Council Minutes of Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

Date : 7 October 2024 (Monday)

Time : 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Islands District Council Conference Room,

14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

## **Present**

#### **Chairman**

Mr HO Siu-kei

## Vice-Chairman

Mr LAU Chin-pang

## **Members**

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Mr NG Man-kit

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

Mr WAN Yeung-kin

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Ms WONG Chau-ping, MH

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr YIP Pui-kei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Mr LUO Chenghuan

## **Co-opted Member**

Mr CHUK Hing-toi, MH

#### **In Attendance**

Mr MOK Mong-chan Assistant District Office (Islands)1, Islands District Office Mr FUNG Wai-nok District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1,

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5,

**Environmental Protection Department** 

#### **Secretary**

Ms LAM Long-ching, Christine Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office

## **Welcoming Remarks**

<u>The Chairman</u> welcomed representatives of the government departments and Members to the meeting.

#### I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 August 2024

- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> 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.
- 3. Members had no further amendment proposals, and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.
- II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024 (Phase III) in Islands District
   (FEHC Paper No. 28/2024)
  - 4. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed the following guests who attended the meeting to present the paper: Mr FUNG Wai-nok, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) and Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1, of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).
  - 5. <u>Mr FUNG Wai-nok</u> briefly presented the paper.
  - 6. <u>Members</u> expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members enquired how the FEHD would deal with the refuse accumulated on the sea surface and in the mangrove forest near the Tai O Promenade, with a view to ameliorating mosquito infestation in the area.
- (b) Members considered that the anti-mosquito efforts of the FEHD were effective, and asked the Department to further step up such efforts in shopping centres.

# 7. <u>Mr FUNG Wai-nok</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The FEHD, the Lands Department (LandsD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had carried out a joint operation earlier to address the problems of refuse accumulation and mosquito infestation on the sea surface and in the mangrove forest near the Tai O Promenade. The FEHD was mainly responsible for cleaning up the refuse in coastal areas and would also ask the AFCD to prune the mangroves. The Department would continue to collaborate with relevant government departments to ameliorate the said problems at the locations concerned.
- (b) The FEHD had been conducting joint operations with the Housing Department (HD) on mosquito prevention and control on a regular basis. Between July and September this year, the FEHD and the HD conducted five joint anti-mosquito operations and held five roving exhibitions on mosquito prevention and control at Yat Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate. The Department also convened meetings with the inter-departmental task forces on anti-mosquito work on 19 July, 26 August and 24 September this year to share technical advice on mosquito prevention and control with other departments. The Department would step up publicity and education efforts on mosquito prevention and control and continue to ameliorate the mosquito problems in housing estates and shopping centres through inter-departmental collaboration.

#### 8. Members expressed their views as follows:

(a) Members considered the joint cleanup operations conducted earlier in and around the mangrove forests in Tai O effective, but hoped that the departments concerned would increase the frequency of such operations. In addition, Members asked the FEHD about the participation frequency of the departments concerned (including the FEHD, the LandsD and the AFCD) in these operations.

- (b) Members suggested that the FEHD should increase the frequency of anti-mosquito and anti-rodent operations, and step up anti-mosquito work at the village sewers and refuse collection points in rural areas to improve environmental hygiene.
- (c) Members suggested that the FEHD should collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), Link Asset Management Limited, private housing estates and rural committees to conduct joint anti-mosquito operations.
- (d) Regarding the captioned anti-mosquito campaign, Members asked the FEHD why the mosquito control work for the northern part of Lamma Island had concentrated only on the areas around Au Tsai Tsuen, Po Wah Yuen, Nga Kau Wan to Canaan Village, Yung Shue Wan Main Street and Yung Shue Wan Plaza Road.
- (e) Members expressed concern about the severe midge and mosquito problems near Cheung Chau Sai Tai Road and hoped that the FEHD would strengthen mosquito and midge control efforts in the area. Members also suggested that the Department should step up grass cutting work in overgrown areas to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.
- (f) Mosquito infestation in rural areas was serious, especially at dusk. In this connection, Members hoped that the FEHD could place two to three mosquito trapping devices in each rural village and perform fogging operations in the vicinity of the villages.
- 9. <u>The Chairman</u> noted that the number of complaints about mosquito infestation in the mangrove forests in Tai O had dropped significantly. He then asked the FEHD to respond to the suggestion of increasing the frequency of joint cleanup operations. In addition, he pointed out that due to the insufficient number of rubbish bins at the bus stops near the Tai O Promenade, many visitors and residents had littered there, thus affecting environmental hygiene.

# 10. <u>Mr Ric YAN</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) According to the joint on-site inspection conducted on 10 July 2024, after coordination among the concerned departments, the AFCD was responsible for pruning the mangroves under conservation along the Tai O Promenade and the related cleanup work; the LandsD was responsible for pruning the mangroves not under conservation around the Sun Ki stilt houses and Shek Tsai Po; while the FEHD was responsible for cleaning up the refuse on the coastal areas around the Sun Ki stilt houses

and Shek Tsai Po. He would provide information on the frequency of the operations after the meeting.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: FEHD's cleansing service contractor cleared the refuse in the coastal areas around the Sun Ki stilt houses and Shek Tsai Po on a weekly basis. In September this year, the AFCD had pruned the mangroves near the Tai O Bus Terminus and the wild trees near Nam Chung Tsuen. Furthermore, the AFCD carried out inspections at the mangrove replanting area adjacent to the Tai O Promenade every one to two months and trimmed the mangroves as needed. In November this year, the service contractor engaged by the Special Duties Task Force of the LandsD had started mangrove maintenance work in the area around the Sun Ki stilt houses and Shek Tsai Po Street in Tai O, and the work was expected to be completed by the end of November this year. Maintenance work would be carried out as appropriate in the light of the actual situation and needs in the future.)

- (b) The FEHD would deploy staff to inspect the littering problem in the vicinity of the Tai O Promenade and adjust the number and placement of rubbish bins at the relevant locations as necessary.
- (c) As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the paper, the anti-mosquito campaign would focus on residential areas, schools, construction sites, public housing estates, hospitals and farming sites, etc. The work would be carried out by four pest control roving teams. Other pest control roving teams in the Islands District would perform anti-mosquito and anti-rodent duties in other parts of the district on a regular basis according to the established pest control work plan.
- (d) If necessary, the FEHD would address the mosquito problem together with the LCSD in the area around Cheung Chau Sai Tai Road, and would liaise with the relevant departments to step up grass cutting work at overgrown areas to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.
- (e) Currently, the FEHD used ultra-low volume foggers instead of thermal foggers to kill adult mosquitoes with cold mist at mosquito-infested sites. As regards the problem of mosquito infestation in rural areas, the FEHD would carry out regular anti-mosquito operations at potential mosquito breeding sites in villages (including village sewers) and would dispatch staff to inspect rural villages to examine the feasibility of increasing the number of mosquito trapping devices.

# III. <u>Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Facelifting of Lower Cheung Sha</u> Public Toilet

(FEHC Paper No. 29/2024)

- 11. <u>The Chairman</u> invited the representatives of the FEHD to present the paper.
- 12. <u>Mr FUNG Wai-nok</u> briefly presented the paper.
- 13. <u>The Chairman</u> enquired whether the FEHD had consulted the residents in the area of Lower Cheung Sha in respect of the captioned works.
- 14. In response to the question, <u>Mr FUNG Wai-nok</u> said that generally, the Department would consult local residents and village representatives before the commencement of the works.

#### IV. Any Other Business

- 15. <u>Members</u> expressed their views as follows:
  - (a) On the morning of 7 October this year, a food waste collection vehicle accidentally spilled food waste at the roundabout on Chung Yan Road in Tung Chung, leaving an unpleasant odour. In this connection, Members asked the FEHD to clean the road surface concerned.
  - (b) Members raised concerns about the stains on the ground of the refuse collection point at Tung Chung Road and suggested that the Department should step up cleansing work at the aforementioned location.
- 16. Mr Ric YAN gave a consolidated response and said that the FEHD would dispatch staff to the roundabout on Chung Yan Road in Tung Chung to follow up on the incident of food waste spillage and would conduct regular follow-up on the hygiene conditions of refuse collection points along Tung Chung Road.

## V. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

17. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 3 December 2024 (Tuesday).

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