

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 11 November 2025 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP

Members

Mr HO Siu-kei
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Mr NG Man-kit
Mr NG Choi-wah, MH
Mr CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan
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
Mr LAU Chin-pang
Ms LAU Suk-han
Ms LAU Shun-ting
Mr LUO Chenghuan, MH

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LO Wai-pun	Deputy Divisional Commander (Marine and Diving)2, Fire Services Department
Mr WONG Chun-yu	Assistant Divisional Officer (Marine)4, Fire Services Department
Mr TSUI Wing-yau	Marine Officer/Harbour Patrol Section (2), Marine Department
Mr YEUNG Wing-pan	Marine Inspector I/Harbour Patrol Section, Marine Department
Ms CHEUK Chau-ling, Cynthia	Assistant Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities (3), Marine Department

In Attendance

Mr MOK Mong-chan	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Mr IP Cheuk-man, Ryerson	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Islands District Office
Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Ms TSANG Pui-yee, Jennifer	Liaison Officer in-charge (Mui Wo/South Lantau), Islands District Office
Mr YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick	Senior Engineer/15 (South and Sustainable Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LAM Bun-gee	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mr NG Chi-shing	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing Department
Mr FUNG Wai-nok	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LEE Cho-ming, Joe	District Commander (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Clive WALTON	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LO Kwok-on	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms LAI Kit-ching, Maureen	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin	Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department

Secretary

Ms Kennis CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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**Welcome remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the meeting of the Islands District Council (IsDC), and introduced the following representatives of departments:

- (a) Mr LO Kwok-on, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), who succeeded

Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise; and

- (b) Mr IP Cheuk-man, Ryerson, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>2</sup> of the Islands District Office (IsDO), who succeeded Ms AU YEUNG Wing-sum, Livia; and Ms TSANG Pui-yee, Jennifer, Liaison Officer in-charge (Mui Wo/South Lantau) of the IsDO, who stood in for Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis.

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 9 September 2025

2. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and Members and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting. Members had no other amendment proposals and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. Question on the anchoring of vessels near a helipad  
(IsDC Paper No. 50/2025)

3. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IsDC Paper No. 50/2025, and welcomed Mr TSUI Wing-yau, Marine Officer/Harbour Patrol Section (2), Mr YEUNG Wing-pan, Marine Inspector I/Harbour Patrol Section and Ms CHEUK Chau-ling, Cynthia, Assistant Marine Officer/Licensing and Port Formalities (3) of the Marine Department (MD); Mr Clive WALTON, District Commander (Marine Port District) and Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus, Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District) of the HKPF; and Mr LO Wai-pun, Deputy Divisional Commander (Marine and Diving)<sup>2</sup> and Mr WONG Chun-yu, Assistant Divisional Officer (Marine)<sup>4</sup> of the Fire Services Department (FSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the Government Flying Service (GFS) and the MD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting. The Chairman invited Ms Mealoha KWOK to briefly present the question.

4. Ms Mealoha KWOK briefly presented the question and played two relevant videos recorded on 28 September this year. She added that following the circumstances described in the aforementioned question and videos, a similar incident occurred again at the same location on the afternoon of 1 November this year, where a GFS helicopter was unable to land immediately due to the anchoring of vessels near the helipad.

5. Mr TSUI Wing-yau elaborated on the written reply of the MD. He added that upon receiving notification from the Marine Police on 1 November this year, the Department promptly provided the Marine Police with the contact details of the vessel owners based on the vessels' licence information and attempted to contact the vessel owners to request the vessels to leave. The Department also despatched a vessel to the scene for follow-up.

6. Mr Clive WALTON responded that the Marine Police received a referral from the Marine Regional Command and Control Centre at 2:57 p.m. on 28 September this year, indicating that the GFS had reported several sailing vessels navigating near the helipad at Tung Wan, Cheung Chau, which might affect the safe landing of helicopters. Police Launch No. 15 was immediately despatched to the scene and arrived within about two minutes. It was found that there were about four to six windsurfers and one motorised sailing vessel operating in the waters near the helipad. Police officers immediately made contact with the water sports participants and advised all vessels to maintain a safe distance. Subsequently, all vessels moved away from the helipad as instructed. The GFS helicopter landed safely at 3:09 p.m. The Marine Police would continue to maintain close liaison with relevant departments to enhance incident response arrangements and ensure maritime safety.

7. Mr LO Wai-pun responded that the FSD received a call for “Priority One Transfer” ambulance service at 2:47 p.m. on September 28 this year. A fire appliance and three firefighters were immediately despatched and arrived at the St. John Hospital in approximately seven minutes. They picked up the patient within one minute and reached the helipad two minutes thereafter. However, the helicopter was unable to land due to obstruction by a yacht. On-site personnel immediately used a loudspeaker to instruct the vessel to leave, and the patient was transferred to a hospital in the urban area by helicopter at 3:10 p.m.

8. Ms Mealoha KWOK said that there were about 4 to 5 air ambulance service calls each week in Cheung Chau, with up to 3 cases occurring simultaneously at times, which reflected the high demand for air ambulance services in the area. She expressed gratitude to the Marine Police and the FSD for their proactive assistance on the day of the incident and urged measures to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. In this regard, the relevant departments should consider issuing guidelines to prohibit vessels from anchoring within a specified distance of the helipad so as to avoid obstructions to emergency ambulance services.

9. Mr Ken WONG suggested that the MD should discuss the safe distance between vessels and the helipad with the GFS, and consider designating the waters near the helipad at Tung Wan and Kwun Yam Wan in Cheung Chau as a prohibited anchorage area to prevent casualties resulting from delayed rescue operations due to obstruction by anchored vessels.

10. Mr WAN Yeung-kin emphasised that emergency ambulance services were time-critical, and relevant departments should actively follow up on the issue to prevent casualties resulting from delayed rescue efforts, otherwise it would be difficult to justify to the injured and their families. The MD should set up signs at the relevant locations to prevent vessels from anchoring near the helipad.

11. Mr NG Choi-wah said that the video showed that the yacht involved was at a certain distance from the helipad, which was surrounded by wire fencing. He enquired whether the GFS had taken into account the potential safety risks to the yacht involved when deciding not to land.

12. Mr TSUI Wing-yau responded that the waters near Tung Wan and Kwun Yam Wan in Cheung Chau were currently not designated as a specified passage area, nor were they a prohibited anchorage area. Regarding Members' suggestion to restrict vessels from anchoring near the helipad, the MD had not yet received from the GFS any specific requirements on the height or safe distance of vessels from the helipad during helicopter landing. The MD had to consult the GFS and the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) before formulating any relevant measures. At the present stage, if ambulance personnel identified any vessel causing obstruction, they could immediately notify the MD, which would promptly dispatch nearby patrol vessels to the scene to assist or contact the vessel owner through licence information and request the vessel to leave immediately.

13. Mr NG Man-kit expressed reservations about the above reply from the MD. He said that the current practice of notifying the MD only when obstruction by a vessel was identified might delay emergency ambulance services, potentially leading to loss of life. He suggested that the Department should follow the practices adopted in waters such as Shek Kwu Chau and Hei Ling Chau and designate a prohibited anchorage area near the helipad concerned.

14. Mr Ken WONG considered the practice of waiting for the MD to dispatch personnel to Cheung Chau to disperse vessels time-consuming. He suggested that the Department should issue a Marine Department Notice to remind vessel owners not to anchor near the helipad.

15. Ms Mealoha KWOK reiterated her gratitude to the Marine Police for their recent assistance in dispersing vessels on two occasions and emphasised that she hoped similar situations requiring intervention by relevant departments would not arise in the future.

16. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that relevant departments should address the urgent concerns of the public, with the safety of people as the top priority, and formulate short, medium, and long-term measures regarding the matter (including prohibiting vessels from anchoring near the helipad) as soon as possible.

17. Mr TSUI Wing-yau responded that the area around Tung Wan and Kwun Yam Wan in Cheung Chau was a gazetted beach area under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), where there was no heavy vessel traffic and thus was not busy waters. Nevertheless, the MD would discuss the suggestion on the restriction of vessels from anchoring near the helipad (including height restrictions for vessels and the safe distance from the helipad) with the GFS and the CAD after the meeting.

18. The Chairman said that given there were about 4 to 5 air ambulance service call-out cases each week in Cheung Chau, and the aforementioned beach area was adjacent to the helipad, the relevant departments should actively consider designating the waters near the helipad at Tung Wan and Kwun Yam Wan in Cheung Chau as a

prohibited anchorage area in light of this special circumstance. The Chairman asked the MD to discuss the aforementioned matter with the GFS and the CAD after the meeting and report the progress to the District Council.

19. Mr HO Siu-kei enquired when the relevant departments could provide a reply.

20. Mr Ken WONG urged the MD to issue a Marine Department Notice as soon as possible to remind vessel owners not to anchor near the helipad.

21. Mr TSUI Wing-yau responded that he would discuss the feasibility of the aforementioned suggestions with the relevant sections after the meeting.

22. The Chairman said that in view of the time required for discussions among departments, she suggested that the MD should report the progress by the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The MD reported on 29 December 2025 that regarding the water area near the helipad at Tung Wan and Kwun Yam Wan in Cheung Chau, the Department had liaised with the GFS and the CAD for discussion and had consulted them on the safety considerations for helicopters landing at the Cheung Chau helipad (including the safe distance from vessels and the flight altitudes). After the discussion, the GFS considered it more appropriate to disseminate relevant information to coxswains and ship operators under the aforementioned circumstance, and suggested that vessels should maintain a minimum distance of one hundred meters from the Cheung Chau helipad. The CAD raised no objection to the above suggestion. Since the waters near the Cheung Chau helipad covered the gazetted beach area under the LCSD, the MD had also discussed the above suggestion with the LCSD, which agreed to the aforementioned suggested distance and would follow up on any vessels entering its jurisdiction. In view of the above suggestion, the MD would issue a Marine Department Notice within January 2026 to remind marine users to maintain a minimum distance of one hundred meters from the Cheung Chau helipad to avoid affecting helicopter takeoffs and landings.)

III. Reports on the Work of the IsDC Committees / Working Group  
(IsDC Papers No. 51-56/2025)

23. Members noted and endorsed the papers unanimously.

IV. Any Other Business

24. No other business was raised by Members.

V. Date of Next Meeting

25. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 13 January 2026 (Tuesday).

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