

(Translation)

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)
under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 14 September 2021 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.)

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence

(Left at 12:45 p.m.)

Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay

Mr MAK Wai-ming

(Arrived at 9:45 a.m., left at 12 noon)

Ms NG Mei, Carman

(Arrived at 9:42 a.m.)

Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet

(Arrived at 9:37 a.m.)

Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon

In Attendance

Mr YU Kin-keung, Edward, JP

Acting District Officer (Sham Shui Po)

Mr LEE Wai-yin, Brett

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1

Miss TSE Yi-lam, Gloria

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1
(Designate)

Miss CHIN Wai-sheung, Doris

Senior Liaison Officer 1, Sham Shui Po District Office

Ms CHAN Siu-ping, Daphne

Senior Liaison Officer 2, Sham Shui Po District Office

Miss LAU Sze-nga, Vivicia

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

Mr TAM Kin-fai, Simon

Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office

Ms LING Kuk-yi

Chief Manager/M (KWS), Housing Department

Ms CHAU Fung-mui, Wendy

District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po), Social
Welfare Department

Mr NG Lok-chun, Jim

District Commander (Sham Shui Po District), Hong
Kong Police Force

Mr TSE Yu-ngai, Patrick	Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David	Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SHING Lai-kam, Goldie	District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr HUI Chi-ping, Edwin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YEUNG Chong-tak, Clarence	Chief Engineer/S1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr TSE Kong-wai, Eric	Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 1, Transport Department

Secretary

Ms HO Kam-ping, Jennifer	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sham Shui Po District Office
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Absent

Member

Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the eleventh meeting of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 10th meeting held on 29 June 2021

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) The reorganisation of the Sham Shui Po District Council (6th term) and the arrangement for election of Chairmen of committees and working groups directly under the District Council (SSPDC Paper 104/21)

3. The Chairman introduced Paper 104/21 and invited Members to express their views.

4. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders specified that the tenure of committees would not be more than two years, he enquired whether the tenure after the reorganisation would be calculated from today. He also said that it was learnt that the Government planned to reduce the funds for community involvement projects of district councils in the next financial year and enquired whether that was true.

5. Ms Janet NG opined that the two-year tenure of committees should be calculated from today.

6. The Secretary said that Members’ views were noted and she would discuss the tenure with the Chairman and follow up after the meeting.

7. The Chairman said that for the committees that would be formed by the merging as set out in the reorganisation proposal, their two-year tenure should be calculated from today, while for the Planning Development and Transport Affairs Committee (“PTAC”), as it was proposed to remain unchanged, its tenure remained to be studied. Also, he hoped the Acting District Officer would respond to the source saying that the funds for community involvement projects of district councils would be reduced.

8. The Acting District Officer said that he had no response.

9. Ms LAU Pui-yuk expressed views on items 7 and 9 of the proposed terms of reference of the District Facilities and Community Affairs Committee (“DFCAC”). She

opined that the District Council (“DC”) should proactively help to promote and publicise patriotic education, the relationship between the Basic Law and the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China (“the Constitution of the PRC”), the relationship between one country and two systems, etc. and therefore considered item 7 of the terms of reference, which read “to promote district administration, community education, etc.”, to be relatively vague. Regarding item 9, she said that DC should step up the background vetting of the organisations applying for DC funds to ensure that these organisations would not engage in activities in violation of the National Security Law.

10. Mr Ramon YUEN pointed out that the proposed terms of reference were drawn up by combining the existing ones while DC had always vetted all funding applications meticulously, and therefore he opined that it was not necessary to make amendments specially.

11. Ms Janet NG agreed with Mr Ramon YUEN’s views and said that the responsibility of DC was to ensure that funding applications were in compliance with the relevant guidelines and law enforcement departments should be the ones to examine whether there was any law violation.

12. The Chairman said that the proposed terms of reference were drawn up by combining the existing ones without any amendment. He pointed out that DC lacked the authority to investigate so it could not vet organisations’ backgrounds. He then suggested that Ms LAU Pui-yuk provide specific amendment suggestions for discussion in the meeting or submit discussion papers in future meetings.

13. Ms LAU Pui-yuk opined that in view of the new circumstances in society, DC should serve as a gatekeeper in the use of public money more stringently, for example, it should request the organisations applying for funds to provide basic background information for vetting. She also suggested amending item 7 of the proposed terms of reference of DFCAC to “to promote district administration, community education, etc., especially the strengthening of patriotic education, the relationship between the Basic Law and the Constitution of the PRC, the relationship between one country and two systems, etc.”.

14. Ms Carman NG agreed that attention should be paid to applicant organisations’ backgrounds and pointed out that in the vetting of funding applications, sometimes it was difficult to make judgements simply based on the information submitted by organisations. She suggested relaying the matter to the Vetting Sub-committee for follow up.

15. Mr Ramon YUEN suggested that Ms LAU Pui-yuk should join different working groups to put forth her views and vet funding applications stringently.

16. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that after the National Security Law and the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 had come into effect, DC had the responsibility to promote patriotic education and help residents in the district understand the relevant regulations, and she hoped Members would support the above amendment. She again suggested requesting the organisations applying for funds to provide more background information for vetting in order to prevent improper use of public money.

17. The Chairman opined that the existing vetting mechanism for funds should be reviewed by working groups and if any improvement suggestions were raised, they could be submitted to committees for discussion and then to DC for making decisions after discussion.

18. Ms Janet NG said that DC had carried motions relating to the strengthening of the education about patriotism and the Basic Law in the last meeting.

19. Mr Ramon YUEN also said that DC had carried the relevant motions in the last meeting. He opined that as DC had made decisions on the relevant matters after discussion in the last meeting, it should not pass the matters to the committees, which were of a lower level, for handling.

20. The Chairman read out Amended Motion 1 (SSPDC Paper 69/21) and Amended Motion 2 (SSPDC Paper 70/21) carried by DC in the tenth meeting. He pointed out that through the motions above, DC had clearly expressed its concerns and stances over the National Security Law and patriots administering Hong Kong.

21. Ms LAU Pui-yuk opined that the content of the motions carried by DC in the last meeting was different from the suggestions she just raised and the matters concerned were important, so discussing them again would still be considered reasonable. She also said that she would move a provisional motion.

22. The Chairman said that he had given Members sufficient time to discuss and he held an open attitude towards the moving of provisional motions by Members.

23. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired whether DC agreed with requesting the organisations applying for funds to provide background information for vetting and passing the matter to working groups for follow up.

24. The Chairman suggested that the Secretariat provide technical support to explore ways to vet applicant organisations' backgrounds. He then said that he received a provisional motion, which was moved by Ms LAU Pui-yuk and seconded by Mr Leo HO.

He asked Ms LAU Pui-yuk to introduce the motion.

25. Ms LAU Pui-yuk introduced the provisional motion, which read as follows:

“Regarding item 7 of the terms of reference of DFCAC: to promote district administration, community education, etc., especially the strengthening of patriotic education, the relationship between the Basic Law and the Constitution of the PRC, the relationship between one country and two systems, etc.”

26. The meeting voted on the provisional motion above by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr Leo HO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk, Mr MAK Wai-ming,
Ms Carman NG (4)

Against: Mr Lawrence LAU, Mr Jay LI, Ms Janet NG,
Mr Ramon YUEN (4)

Abstain: Mr CHUM Tak-shing (1)

27. The Secretary announced the voting result: 4 Members voted for it, 4 Members voted against it and 1 Member abstained.

28. Ms Janet NG said that she absolutely supported the compliance with the Basic Law and the National Security Law, but opined that there was inadequacy in the provisional motion as it did not cover the terms of reference of other committees, and suggested amending the terms of reference of all committees in one go.

29. The Chairman reiterated that the proposed terms of reference of committees were drawn up by combining the existing ones without amendment. He pointed out that DC had carried the relevant motions in the last meeting and opined that moving a motion on similar issues was not necessary. He said that as the votes for and against the motion were equal, as Chairman, he needed to cast a casting vote. He then voted against the motion and announced that the provisional motion was not carried.

30. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she was disappointed at the voting result. She reiterated that DC should carry out a comprehensive review in view of the new circumstances in society, and urged DC to follow up proactively to ensure that the public would have a correct understanding.

31. The meeting voted on the DC reorganisation proposal in Paper 104/21 by open

ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr CHUM Tak-shing, Mr Lawrence LAU, Mr Jay LI,
Mr MAK Wai-ming, Ms Carman NG, Ms Janet NG,
Mr Ramon YUEN (7)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Mr Leo HO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk (2)

32. The Secretary announced the voting result: 7 Members voted for it, no Member voted against it and 2 Members abstained.

33. The Chairman announced that the DC reorganisation proposal was endorsed. He then invited Members to make nominations for the offices of chairmen of the newly-formed committees and working groups directly under DC as well as the pre-existing ones with vacant offices of chairmen.

34. Ms Janet NG nominated Ms Carman NG for the office of Chairman of DFCAC and the seconders were the Chairman and Mr Jay LI.

35. Ms Carman NG accepted the nomination.

36. The Chairman announced that Ms Carman NG was elected as Chairman of DFCAC.

37. Ms Janet NG nominated Mr MAK Wai-ming for the office of Chairman of the Environment, Hygiene and Housing Affairs Committee (“EHHAC”) and the seconders were the Chairman and Mr Jay LI.

38. Mr MAK Wai-ming accepted the nomination.

39. The Chairman announced that Mr MAK Wai-ming was elected as Chairman of EHHAC. He then nominated Mr Jay LI for the office of Chairman of PTAC and the seconders were Mr Carman NG, Ms Janet NG and Mr Ramon YUEN.

40. Mr Jay LI accepted the nomination.

41. The Chairman announced that Mr Jay LI was elected as Chairman of PTAC. He then nominated Mr Ramon YUEN for the office of Chairman of the Working Group on Community Involvement and District Publicity (“WGCIDP”) and the seconders were Mr

Jay LI and Ms Janet NG.

42. Mr Ramon YUEN accepted the nomination.

43. The Chairman announced that Mr Ramon YUEN was elected as Chairman of WGCIDP.

44. Mr Ramon YUEN nominated Ms Janet NG for the office of Chairman of the Working Group on Community Services (“WGCS”) and the seconders were Mr Jay LI and Ms Carman NG.

45. Ms Janet NG accepted the nomination.

46. The Chairman announced that Ms Janet NG was elected as Chairman of WGCS.

(b) Concern over the use of “fishing rod” in a burglary case which happened in a building with scaffolding erected in Sham Shui Po (SSPDC Paper 105/21)

47. Ms LAU Pui-yuk introduced Paper 105/21 and expressed disappointment that the Buildings Department (“BD”) had not sent representatives to the meeting.

48. The Chairman asked Members to refer to the written response of BD (Paper 105a/21).

49. Mr Jim NG said that the Sham Shui Po police district had received 115 burglary cases between January and August this year and 13 of which involved repair works with scaffolding; burglars mostly chose “three-nil buildings” with a lower level of security and buildings with scaffolding to commit burglary. The Sham Shui Po police district would combat burglary in the district comprehensively through education, prevention and investigation. With regard to education, the Police would disseminate information on crime prevention via online and offline platforms, collaborate with the Kowloon West Crime Prevention Unit (“KWCPU”) to give talks on crime prevention and distribute leaflets in different languages including those used by ethnic minorities at crime black spots, as well as provide more information on burglary prevention to different ethnic groups continuously. With regard to prevention, the Police would arrange for police officers to conduct high-profile patrols at high-risk places on an on-going basis to combat criminal activities. The Sham Shui Po police district and KWCPU would also take the initiative to conduct security surveys for “three-nil buildings” and buildings with scaffolding and provide security advice; as at 31 August this year, about 79 buildings in the district were undergoing repair works with scaffolding, according to the survey results. The Police and the Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee (“SSPDFCC”) had been running Project Guarding Eyes since 2015 to subsidise the installation of

closed-circuit television (“CCTV”) systems in old buildings in the district, with the aim of strengthening building security; about 111 buildings in the district had been installed with CCTV systems so far and in the fourth phase of the project, repairs would be conducted on damaged or out of order CCTV systems in buildings. With regard to investigation, the Police would adopt an intelligence-led approach to conduct investigations and make arrests, hoping that it could combat burglary more effectively; by analysing intelligence, the Police had successfully identified the suspect involved and solved multiple burglary cases. In terms of results, the number of burglary cases received by the Sham Shui Po police district between January and August this year dropped by more than 50% when compared with the same period last year, while the crime detection rate increased from 12.3% last year to 32.2% this year. The Police hoped to step up the fight against crimes in the district through enhancing the strategies above.

50. Mr Simon TAM introduced Response Paper 105b/21 and supplemented that to improve the environmental hygiene, repair and maintenance, security, etc. of buildings, owners of private buildings had to take part in building management work. Apart from encouraging and helping owners to form owners’ corporations (“OCs”), Liaison Officers of District Building Management Liaison Team of the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”) would also provide owners with relevant building management information and relay crime prevention information from the Police to them through different means, including routine liaison, attendance at relevant meetings and holding of talks, so as to complement the Police’s work in crime fighting. Also, SSPDO would gain an understanding of the security problems that were of concern to the district through SSPDFCC so as to step up the efforts in publicity and education relating to crime fighting.

51. Mr Jay LI thanked the Police for the detailed response and recognised the effectiveness of their measures against burglary in old buildings. However, he opined that owners of old buildings had the responsibility to implement measures to enhance security and hoped that the Government would provide more subsidy schemes to encourage owners to do so on their own initiative. He then said that for some buildings, owners were unable to form or manage OCs due to old age and suggested adopting a community joint management mode to hire property management companies for these buildings. He also enquired about the application arrangements of Project Guarding Eyes.

52. Ms LAU Pui-yuk thanked the Police for using a multi-pronged approach to fight crimes in the district and opined that government departments and DC should be more proactive in helping old buildings to strengthen building management and security measures. Also, she criticised BD’s routine regular measures for failing to reduce burglary cases in buildings with scaffolding and opined that the Department had the responsibility to strengthen security measures for buildings that were undergoing repair

works and send social worker teams to remind residents to lock doors and windows during repair works, so as to reduce the risk of their units being burgled by thieves entering through scaffolding. She then suggested that the Home Affairs Department review the programme to provide subsidies for OCs of old buildings under the Community Care Fund and enquired whether additional subsidies would be provided to the buildings mentioned above. She also requested SSPDO to collaborate with other departments to hold seminars to provide residents with more information on burglary prevention.

53. Mr MAK Wai-ming opined that Project Guarding Eyes produced fairly good results, but the time required for vetting applications was relatively long, the protection to buildings with both front and rear staircases was inadequate as the CCTV systems had only one camera, and some buildings might not have sufficient space and supporting facilities for installing CCTV systems. He hoped departments would address these issues properly and enquired whether buildings that had obtained subsidies could submit applications again. He then suggested that the Police step up the patrols at rear lanes of buildings with scaffolding to enhance deterrence and that BD shorten the time scaffolding was present in default works as well as enhance the lighting of scaffolding and the security measures of nearby buildings.

54. The Chairman suggested that BD include the requirement of installing CCTV at scaffolding into its guidelines on repair works and urged SSPDO to proactively help old buildings strengthen building management to enhance deterrence.

55. Mr Jim NG gave a consolidated response saying that the Police would follow up the issues about vetting progress and technical support of Project Guarding Eyes in SSPDFCC meetings and OCs interested in applying for the project could contact Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinators of the Police directly. Also, the Police had all along been sending uniformed officers to conduct high-profile patrols at rear lanes of buildings and plainclothes officers to conduct inspections at buildings with scaffolding to prevent crimes.

56. Mr Simon TAM gave a consolidated response saying that Members' suggestions on the management of old buildings were noted and SSPDO would help owners improve the management of private buildings and strengthen security measures through the existing allowance and subsidy schemes for private buildings and owners and by deploying sufficient manpower as far as possible. Regarding the suggestion about community joint management, the obligations and rights of owners differed in deeds of mutual covenant ("DMCs") of different buildings and the management issues thus caused also differed, and these might involve complicated legal issues and had to be handled according to the requirements of DMCs via joint discussions by owners; "three-nil buildings" had no residents' organisations so it would be even more difficult to rationalise

the handling of management issues arising from the provisions of DMCs via joint discussions by owners or to reach a consensus on issues relating to the obligations and rights of owners, and therefore the current approach of owners managing buildings on their own by establishing OCs was more appropriate. For buildings with scaffolding, SSPDO in future would remind owners and OCs more to strengthen security as well as notify the Police to prevent crimes.

57. Ms LAU Pui-yuk hoped departments would step up the handling of security problems in old buildings in the district and suggested using DC funds to help implement Project Guarding Eyes so that more buildings would be benefited.

58. The Chairman suggested following up the matters above via the Working Group on Private Premises and Urban Revitalisation. He then concluded that departments should collaborate to handle the burglary problems concerning units in old buildings and set out guidelines on repair works in buildings.

(c) Oppose the planning application of an underground smart car park in Sham Shui Po Request the Transport Department to provide sufficient information (SSPDC Paper 106/21)

59. Mr Jay LI introduced Paper 106/21.

60. The Chairman added that in 2019, the Transport Department (“TD”) had submitted preliminary suggestions about a smart car park to the Transport Affairs Committee, which had expressed neither support nor opposition to the suggestions at the time and simply requested the Department to consider members’ views; when responding to enquiries about the smart car park later, TD had said that it would consult DC again regarding the design of the car park but nothing happened in the end. He then asked Members to refer to Response Papers 106a/21 and 106b/21.

61. Mr Eric TSE responded that the division responsible for the project concerned of the Department could not send representatives to today’s meeting and asked Members to refer to the relevant written response. He then said that he would relay Members’ views to the division concerned.

62. The Chairman enquired why the division concerned could not send representatives to the meeting.

63. Mr Eric TSE responded that he did not have the relevant information.

64. Ms Janet NG said that she did not oppose constructing the car park but was

concerned about its location and number of parking spaces, and pointed out that the suggested design of the smart car park would affect the nearby traffic. She hoped that the works concerned would not be launched forcefully and suggested that the Department conduct in-depth traffic assessments again to avoid wasting resources and causing traffic problems in future.

65. Mr Lawrence LAU enquired whether the motion in the paper would be submitted to the Town Planning Board (“TPB”) after it was carried.

66. Mr Jay LI responded that as far as he understood, DC would bring the motion to the attention of TPB after it was carried.

67. Mr Lawrence LAU said that he wanted to amend the wording of the motion.

68. Mr Jay LI said that the paper submitted by TD to PTAC for circulation in July this year contained a few pages only while the one submitted to TPB for vetting was much more detailed, and he opined that the Department did not really consult DC. He then said that a total of 14 written submissions containing comments on the planning application of the smart car park had been sent to TPB and the main comments included requests for increasing motor cycle parking spaces, increasing electric vehicle charging facilities, increasing coach parking spaces, etc., and there was more than one comment opposing the placement of the exit at Sai Chuen Road. He was dissatisfied that the Department had never provided specific responses addressing Members’ enquiries and opined that the Department did not respect DC. He said that as the Department did not provide sufficient information, he opposed the planning application.

69. The Chairman said that representatives of TD had once said that they would consult DC regarding the design proposal of the smart car park but that was not carried out in the end, and he opined that the Department did not honour its promise. He then said that the information provided by the Department to DC was too sketchy and could not help Members provide their views. He also did not understand why TD and the Planning Department did not mention other views received from the public.

70. Mr Eric TSE responded that he had nothing to add.

71. Ms Janet NG said that she hoped to amend the premise of the motion to that if the applicant was unable to provide sufficient information to answer Members’ enquiries, then DC would oppose the planning application concerned. She hoped that after DC had expressed its stance, the Department would consider DC’s views.

72. The Chairman said that the mover of the motion in the paper could not put

forward amendments to the motion and if Members wanted to amend the motion, they had to put forward their amendments in writing.

73. Mr Lawrence LAU responded that he hoped to amend the words of the motion to “if the applicant is unable to..., this Council will express to TPB its opposition....” He opined that apart from expressing its stance in the meeting, DC should also submit the opposition views to TPB.

74. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned for four minutes.

[The meeting was adjourned for four minutes.]

75. The Chairman announced that the meeting was resumed.

76. Ms Janet NG moved an amended motion, which read as follows:

“If the applicant is unable to provide sufficient information to address the doubts including those about the blockage problem caused by the placement of the car park exit at Sai Chuen Road, the insufficient number of commercial parking spaces and motor cycle parking spaces, etc., this Council will express to TPB its opposition to the planning application of the underground smart car park in Sham Shui Po (application no.: A/K20/134) and hope that the Planning Department and TPB will consider the views mentioned above and request the applicant to provide the relevant information.”

77. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that the underground smart car park in Sham Shui Po had been discussed for a long time, and departments had submitted a lot of papers to TPB regarding that planning application so it was not that no public disclosure had been made. She pointed out that if the presumption of the amended motion was that the relevant departments did not submit the relevant information to DC, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong had reservations about the motion. She then said that as the smart car park could help improve the illegal parking problems in Sham Shui Po District, she, after consideration, would abstain from voting on the motion. She hoped the Department would provide DC with the corresponding information afterwards so that she could relay it to residents.

78. The Chairman approved the amended motion of Paper 106/21, which was moved by Ms Janet NG and seconded by Mr Lawrence LAU.

79. The meeting voted on the amended motion of Paper 106/21 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Ms Janet NG, Ms Carman NG, Mr Lawrence LAU,
Mr Jay LI, Mr Ramon YUEN (5)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Mr CHUM Tak-shing, Mr Leo HO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk,
Mr MAK Wai-ming (4)

80. The Secretary announced the voting result: 5 Members voted for it, no Member voted against it and 4 Members abstained. The Chairman announced that the amended motion was carried.

81. Mr Jay LI hoped that the carried motion would be passed to TPB as early as possible so that it could be presented in TPB meetings.

82. The Chairman concluded that DC had always been concerned over the construction of a smart car park in Sham Shui Po and supported the application of new technology to increase public parking spaces; however, DC had many enquiries and views on the site selection and works schedule of the carpark as well as its impacts on the residents and traffic in the district, and therefore expressed the wish more than once for TD to provide more detailed information. Nevertheless, the Department not only failed to provide the relevant information, but also did not consult DC regarding the design proposal, and therefore DC could only put forward an opposition motion so that TPB would consider DC's views.

(d) Concern over the inadequate provision of after-school care services in Sham Shui Po District (SSPDC Paper 107/21)

83. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 107/21.

84. Ms Wendy CHAU responded that the existing after-school care services were generally provided by non-government organisations on a self-financing and fee-charging basis, while there were also schools collaborating with social welfare organisations to provide after-school care services on campus. The Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had established the Fee Waiving Subsidy Scheme for After School Care Programme ("FWSS for ASCP") for low-income families with financial difficulties, under which approved after-school care centres would provide full fee-waiving places or half fee-reduction places to help parents who worked longer hours, needed to find jobs or had job training to take care of children aged from 6 to 12. To strengthen child care services, the Department would re-engineer mutual help child care centres in phases starting from this year, those centres would be re-engineered to provide after-school care services for

pre-primary children aged from 3 to under 6, and one centre in the district had already been re-engineered in August. Moreover, since October 2020, the number of full fee-waiving service places under FWSS for ASCP had increased by 2 500 across the territory. Given that the projects to build new housing estates and redevelop old housing estates in the district would soon be completed one by one, the Department would closely monitor the service needs and encourage social welfare organisations in the district to increase service places.

85. Ms LING Kuk-yi responded that according to the existing mechanism, when planning new public housing projects, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (“HKHA”) would draw reference from the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and seek the views of the relevant departments/organisations and other stakeholders, including DC, in order to provide suitable community and social welfare facilities in the projects, and the considerations included the constraints of individual sites, feasibility of providing the required facilities, requirements of different facilities, funding arrangements for the facilities involved, relevant laws, etc. Through the above mechanism, HKHA would continue to collaborate with the relevant departments to achieve optimal use of the sites under development in order to respond to society’s demands for public housing and community facilities.

86. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the existing after-school care services were mainly provided for children aged from 6 to 12. He enquired about the number of after-school care service places for pre-primary children aged from 3 to under 6 in the district and the special arrangements of the services during the epidemic.

87. Mr Leo HO said that residents in So Uk Estate had a strong demand for after-school care services and some even needed to go to another district to receive such services. He then enquired whether the additional full fee-waiving service places under FWSS for ASCP were available for families who did not join that scheme. He opined that the relevant departments should strengthen the after-school care services and the support for dual income families in response to the completion of new housing estate projects.

88. Ms Janet NG suggested that SWD step up its publicity efforts to encourage social welfare organisations to provide more after-school care service places and enquired how many of the additional service places under FWSS for ASCP were allocated to Sham Shui Po District.

89. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired how to apply for FWSS for ASCP and whether SWD had made the information on eligible organisations under that scheme available for residents to access. She suggested that the Government step up its publicity to help the families in need to seek assistance.

90. The Chairman enquired whether the additional service places could satisfy the demands of the families in the district for care services and whether SWD would allocate more resources to address the matters above. He suggested asking mutual aid committees to lend their premises for provision of care services.

91. Ms Wendy CHAU gave a consolidated response saying that to further address community needs, SWD had put in place numerous measures to strengthen child care and would keep reviewing the service effectiveness and the demands in the district to provide more appropriate services, such as providing after-school care services to pre-primary children through re-engineering mutual help child care centres, with a view to using resources more effectively. She then said that in the approved after-school care centres under FWSS for ASCP in Sham Shui Po District, the number of full fee-waiving places and half fee-reduction places had been increased while one-third fee-reduction places had also been introduced so that more families would be benefited, and the amount of subsidies for students with special educational needs were doubled as well. Families in need could direct enquiries and make applications for such services to approved after-school care centres directly. Moreover, the Department would continue to encourage organisations to make use of their premises to provide after-school care services.

92. Ms LING Kuk-yi gave a consolidated response saying that a list of vacant premises in public housing estates which non-government organisations could directly apply for renting to use for welfare service purposes was uploaded to the website of HKHA, and interested organisations could submit applications; nevertheless, HKHA would need to examine whether the proposed welfare service purposes were appropriate by considering factors including management, residents' views, technical feasibility of works, land lease terms (if applicable), etc., while recommendations by the relevant government departments or bureaux also needed to be considered.

93. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that the Government would allocate more resources to provide adequate child care services, including providing more subsidised places in after-school care services, so as to address the population growth arising from the completion of the numerous large housing estates in the district.

(e) Concern over the progress on “the survey on patients’ rights” and the “Community Diagnosis Report” (SSPDC Paper 108/21)

94. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 108/21. He said that if the relevant party could not answer the enquiries in the paper, he hoped that this agenda item could be included under “Matters arising” and continued to be discussed at the next DC meeting.

95. Ms Janet NG said that SSPDO should inform Members as soon as possible if it

had concerns over the survey content or could not further process it.

96. The Chairman enquired about the reasons for not being able to further process the above survey.

97. The Secretary responded that the Chairman of the Working Group on Healthy and Safe Community (“WGHSC”) had raised the initial concept of “the survey on patients’ rights in Sham Shui Po District” earlier and submitted the survey scope at the beginning of this year. As the said survey scope was too broad, the Secretariat had made enquiries to the Chairman of WGHSC many times and helped revise it. Then, WGHSC endorsed the survey budget at its 8th meeting in May and the draft of the content of the tender document at its 9th meeting in July. She then said that SSPDO could only made appropriate enquiries after the basic information above had been confirmed by WGHSC. After the said proposals were officially endorsed by WGHSC in July, SSPDO had examined the survey content at once and made written enquiries in mid-August. Besides, regarding the “Sham Shui Po District Community Diagnosis Report” (“Community Diagnosis Report”), as using “artificial intelligence” (“AI”) was a rather pioneer study method and the staff of the Secretariat were not experts in professional survey studies, coupled with the fact that time was needed to sort out how to revise the content with the Chairman, such as clarifying some technical requirements, etc., there was no delay in processing at all.

98. The Chairman enquired whether the Secretariat needed to obtain more information for deepening its understanding on the application of AI or whether it had queries about the application method and thus could not further process the survey.

99. Mr Ramon YUEN said that to ensure the successful implementation of the study on the “Community Diagnosis Report”, he had proposed adopting the study method of the “Community Diagnosis Report” in 2002 for the study and agreed to exclude the element of AI from the study.

100. Assistant District Officer 1 responded that in general, before the detailed study content was specified, SSPDO lacked sufficient information to make enquiries. Before the draft of the content of the tender document was endorsed by WGHSC, SSPDO could not determine the content or direction of the study on WGHSC’s behalf. SSPDO had made enquiries after the draft was endorsed by WGHSC and needed time to examine the supplementary information submitted by Members. Therefore, there was no delay at all. Besides, apart from enquiries about the application of AI, SSPDO also made enquiries about the technical aspects of the two studies. He then said that the Secretary had already mentioned the main points to help Members grasp the latest information about the proposed survey. It seemed inappropriate to conduct detailed discussion at the moment.

101. Mr Ramon YUEN was dissatisfied with the above response. He said that he had submitted the discussion paper before the meeting to enquire whether open invitation could be successfully conducted if the study on the “Community Diagnosis Report” did not include the element of AI and the study method in 2002 was adopted. He then suggested that WGHSC conduct its meeting in early October to speed up the study progress.

102. The Acting District Officer responded that he believed that there was no delay in the handling process. SSPDO colleagues asked questions or made enquiries simply for enriching the content of the tender document to ensure the proper use of public money. He then said that the meeting of WGHSC could be arranged for discussion.

103. The Chairman said that if WGHSC would hold a meeting in early October, he proposed that the relevant progress of the studies should be discussed at the meeting and enquiries should be handled before the meeting. He said that he would not suggest this agenda item be included under “Matters arising”.

104. Mr Ramon YUEN said that if the issue of the conduct of studies could not be resolved at the next WGHSC meeting, the issue should be discussed again at the next DC meeting. Therefore, he suggested that this agenda item be included under “Matters arising” for the time being.

105. The Chairman agreed with the above view and hoped that after communicating with the Secretariat, SSPDO could arrange a meeting for WGHSC to clarify the technical problems of the relevant studies.

Item 3: Reports from Committees under the District Council

(a) Reports from Committees

- (i) Report from the District Facilities Committee (SSPDC Paper 109/21)
- (ii) Report from the Community Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 110/21)
- (iii) Report from the Environment and Hygiene Committee (SSPDC Paper 111/21)

106. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired of relevant departments about the enforcement situation and progress in respect of the noise nuisance caused by shops in the district.

107. The Chairman said that the content of work reports was mainly the summary of

the committee meetings, and the Secretariat did not receive the latest progress before the meeting. If necessary, the Secretariat could make enquiries to relevant departments after the meeting.

- (iv) Report from the Planning Development and Transport Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 112/21)
- (v) Report from the Housing Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 113/21)

108. The meeting noted and endorsed the content of the aforesaid reports.

(b) Reports from Working Groups directly under the District Council

- (i) Working Group on Community Involvement and District Publicity (SSPDC Paper 114/21)
- (ii) Working Group on Pang Tsai and Fashion Base (SSPDC Paper 115/21)
- (iii) Working Group on Poverty Problems and Ethnic Minorities (SSPDC Paper 116/21)
- (iv) Working Group on Healthy and Safe Community (SSPDC Paper 117/21)
- (v) Working Group on the Conservation Work of the Service Reservoir at Mission Hill (SSPDC Paper 118/21)

109. Mr Jay LI said that the Secretariat had invited district organisations to apply for DC funds to organise “community involvement projects on the conservation work of the service reservoir at Mission Hill” themed activities and received funding applications. He enquired about the meeting date and whether the funding applications would be examined and approved by the reorganised working group on community conservation, tree management and environmental protection.

110. The Chairman said that as the applicant organisations had made major changes to the content of the applications, thus more time was needed for them to make amendments and submit again to the Secretariat for examination and approval.

111. The meeting noted and endorsed the content of the aforesaid reports.

Item 4: Any other business

112. Mr Ramon YUEN asked the Acting District Officer about the oath-taking arrangements for DC Members.

113. The Acting District Officer said that he had nothing to add.

114. Ms Janet NG enquired about the follow-up work of the fire at Pak Tin Estate and the situation of the injured.

115. Ms Carman NG thanked various departments for their assistance. According to her understanding, the Government had opened the community halls and arranged for some affected residents to stay at the vacant flats of the same block for the time being, while relevant departments had also arranged electricity repair and cleaning services, etc. She then said that Pak Tin Estate was under redevelopment at the moment, and residents of Block 13 should be relocated to the newly built public housing flats; she enquired if residents affected by the fire could be relocated to the new flats first.

116. The Acting District Officer said that he was deeply sorry about the fire and the casualties caused. He further said that of the twelve injured, ten people had been discharged from hospitals and were properly settled. As for the co-ordination work and social welfare issues, representatives from relevant departments would give detailed explanation.

117. Assistant District Officer 1 added that after receiving the report, SSPDO had immediately sent staff to the scene to follow up the situation. He said that the electricity supply for the incident floor was interrupted due to the fire, and many flats were also severely blackened, rendering residents unable to return home. SSPDO had arranged for shuttle buses to take affected residents to temporary shelters for staying. It was noted that the Housing Department (“HD”) had arranged for some residents to stay at vacant flats of the same block for the time being, and the electricity supply for the incident floor had resumed. Besides, SSPDO had sent staff to help the people in need to apply for the General Chinese Charities Fund and other charitable organisations’ funds to provide emergency financial relief. SSPDO would continue to follow up and provide necessary assistance.

118. Ms Wendy CHAU added that twelve people were injured in the fire, and were sent to the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Caritas Medical Centre respectively for treatment. Medical Social Workers had made initial contact with all the injured and their families, most of them were in stable condition, and two of them had to remain in hospital for observation. She then said that after knowing the incident, the Integrated Family

Service Centre serving that area and some social workers of non-government organisations had contacted the affected families on the material day and provided assistance, including emotional support and short-term food relief services, etc. Besides, the staff of SWD also provided basic supplies and food to those temporarily staying at the temporary shelters. SWD would continue to provide appropriate support for families with welfare needs.

119. The Chairman said that given the oppressive heat in recent days and the fact that air-conditioners of some flats were seriously damaged, he was concerned that residents would find it hard to sleep. Besides, he enquired about the intake arrangement after the redevelopment of Pak Tin Estate.

120. Ms LING Kuk-yi responded that the electricity supply for the incident floor and flat was once interrupted after the fire was put out and the electricity supply had now resumed after emergency repair. Besides, as some flats sustained damage in multiple areas and were seriously blackened, HD and SSPDO had already arranged for affected residents to stay at temporary shelters or vacant flats of the same block for the time being, and would conduct repair works consecutively. As for the rehousing arrangement for the redevelopment, she said that residents of Block 13 were expected to be rehoused to Phase 11 of Pak Tin Estate, and HD would inform the persons concerned consecutively upon obtaining the occupation permit. She would convey the views of rehousing the affected residents to the new flats of Phases 7 and 8 instead to the redevelopment section.

121. Mr Jay LI thanked various departments for their collaboration. He said that the occurrence of fire was quite often in the district recently, and enquired about the operation of the temporary shelters and other temporary rehousing measures when they ceased operation.

122. The Chairman said that the enquiries concerned did not seem to relate to the fire in Pak Tin Estate. He suggested the Secretariat follow up on it after the meeting and provide relevant information.

123. The Acting District Officer responded that the Government could consider opening temporary shelters to affected people no matter whether the fire occurred in public housing or private buildings, and would arrange for them to temporarily stay in temporary shelters or designated places sponsored by private organisations according to their wishes.

124. The Chairman concluded that the fire in Pak Tin Estate happened all of a sudden, but it was fortunate that various departments responded quickly so that the affected residents were properly cared for. He hoped that HD could obtain the occupation permit

as soon as possible so that residents of Block 13 could move into new flats as early as possible.

Item 5: Date of next meeting

125. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 9 November 2021 (Tuesday).

126. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:08 p.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
October 2021