

(Translation)

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)
under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 7 March 2023 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:35 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

(Left at 11:10 a.m.)

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

(Left at 11:10 a.m.)

Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay

Mr MAK Wai-ming

(Arrived at 9:55 a.m., left at 10:35 a.m.)

Ms NG Mei, Carman

(Arrived at 9:57 a.m., left at 10:35 a.m.)

Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet

Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon

In Attendance

Mr WONG Yan-yin, Paul, JP

District Officer (Sham Shui Po)

Miss TSE Yi-lam, Gloria

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1

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

Mr LI Wai-tong

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office
(Acting)

Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita

Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office

Ms MAK Siu-ling, Iris

Chief Manager/M(KWS), Housing Department

Mr YU Wai-yip, Ricky

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

Mr WAN Chi-pui

Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po
District), Hong Kong Police Force

Ms TAM Pui-wah, Alice

Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 1, Transport
Department

Mr WONG Man-wong

Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), Leisure and Cultural

Ms SHING Lai-kam, Goldie	Services Department 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 LUI Sai-tat	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YEUNG Chong-tak, Clarence	Chief Engineer/S1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LO Yu-bun, Ben	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) 2, Development Bureau
Mr CHAN Wai-kin, Raymond	Project Manager (Heritage Conservation) 1, Development Bureau
Miss LEUNG Tin-man, Tammy	Architect (Heritage Conservation) 1, Development Bureau
Ms LEE Shuk-wai, Anthea	Chief Executive, the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong
Mr CHAN Ka-him	Assistant Project Manager, the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong
Miss LEUNG Yi-ning, Felicia	Engineer/Parking Project 4, Transport Department
Ms YAU Kit-yu, Ada	Engineer/Sham Shui Po, Transport Department
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms HO Kam-ping, Jennifer	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sham Shui Po District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the nineteenth meeting of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”). He said that Mr WONG Man-wong, Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), Leisure and Cultural Services Department, would attend the future meetings in place of Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 18th meeting held on 10 January 2023

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

Agenda Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) Revitalising the Former North Kowloon Magistracy as “NK Future” under Batch VI of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” (SSPDC Paper 4/23)

3. Mr Ben LO introduced Paper 4/23 with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.
4. Ms Anthea LEE introduced the revitalisation scheme of the Former North Kowloon Magistracy (“the Magistracy”) named “NK Future” by the Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong (“SRACP”) with the aid of PowerPoint presentation. She said that funds application would be submitted to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) for conducting revitalisation works. It was expected that the Magistracy would be fully opened to the public upon works completion in 2026.
5. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the revitalisation scheme’s degree of openness to the public was higher than before, and hence he welcomed the project. He then enquired of SRACP about the tenancy arrangement of the Magistracy after the completion of revitalisation works, target operation period, and the parts of the Magistracy to be opened to the public.
6. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she hoped that the project would integrate the revitalising building into the community and enhance residents’ participation. She suggested organising more community guided tours covering the Magistracy and the revitalising buildings in the vicinity, and enquired whether SRACP had such proposals. She then enquired about the proposed scope of revitalisation works in the Magistracy and the parts to be opened for organising activities.
7. Mr Jay LI said that during batch I of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”, Savannah College of Art and Design (Hong Kong) could

not continue operating due to financial difficulties. He was concerned that the same situation would happen again. Therefore, he enquired how SRACP would ensure maintaining a stable income to keep running the project and how the project would connect the spirit of mutual help among the grassroots citizens in the district.

8. The Chairman enquired about the eligibility criteria for the community groups to participate in the bazaars or various activities, and how SRACP would obtain money to support its operation.

9. Mr Ben LO said that when the Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation examined the applications for Batch VI of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”, it highly valued the connection between the project and the community, and the degree of openness of the revitalising building to the public. The financial situation of the applicant was also one of the assessment criteria. He said that the revitalisation scheme of SRACP included commercial elements such as restaurants and chargeable items, and thus could ensure securing income. For the tenancy agreement, the bureau would first sign a tenancy agreement with the organisation for three years, and upon the expiry of the agreement, the organisation would decide whether the agreement should be renewed for three more years. Upon the expiry of the tenancy agreement for six years, the organisation would be given priority to renew the agreement subject to satisfactory operating performance. Besides, he said that the design of the project was expected to be completed by the end of next year, and then funds application would be submitted to the LegCo. It was expected that the works would be carried out in 2025.

10. Ms Anthea LEE said that upon the completion of the revitalisation works, the Magistracy would be opened to the public daily except Mondays and the first three days of the Lunar New Year. Besides, SRACP would organise an open day twice every year, and co-organise a free guided tour every week with district organisations for grassroots and underprivileged people. SRACP would also implement partnership scheme and let grassroots people participate in the activities at concessionary prices. Regarding income, she said that it mainly came from judicial education, Hong Kong culture activities and guided tours, and also earnings from partnership scheme, restaurants and leisure items such as bazaars, etc. Regarding the selection criteria of organisations, she said that they had yet to be confirmed at the moment, and Members were welcome to put forward their views.

11. The District Officer said that he welcomed SRACP to operate and manage one of the heritage conservation projects in Sham Shui Po and hoped that it would step up co-operation with the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”).

12. The Chairman concluded that he hoped that the revitalisation scheme would connect the characteristic of Sham Shui Po and bring the judicial theme into the community. Besides, given that SRACP was a charitable organisation with a long history, he believed that its management capability would make the revitalisation scheme sustainable, and SSPDC also supported the project.

(b) Follow up on the town planning application (A/K4/78) concerning the reprovisioning of the Shek Kip Mei Health Centre proposal (SSPDC Paper 5/23)

13. Mr Jay LI introduced Paper 5/23.

14. Miss Felicia LEUNG and Ms Ada YAU introduced Response Paper 5a/23, and explained the issues regarding the number of parking spaces in the public car park and ancillary parking spaces, as well as the traffic impact assessment.

15. Ms Janet NG worried that the vehicular flow in the vicinity of Woh Chai Street would significantly increase after the completion of various redevelopment projects in the future. Therefore, using existing vehicular flow to assess the traffic impact might not be accurate. Besides, she opined that the proposed building should reserve space for provision of consultation and nursing care services as far as practicable, and additional parking spaces should not occupy the space designated for medical facilities.

16. Mr Jay LI said that the traffic impact assessment of the planning application indicated that the vehicular flow was frequent at the crossroads near the vicinity of Woh Chai Street, and the location of the vehicular access of the proposed building was very close to the junction of Woh Chai Street and Shek Kip Mei Street. Given that vehicles were restricted to “enter from the left and leave from the left”, it might lead to traffic congestion along Woh Chai Street westbound. He hoped that relevant departments would take note and explore mitigation measures.

17. Ms Ada YAU gave a consolidated response by saying that the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) had commissioned a consultancy firm to conduct a traffic impact assessment on the cumulative impact on nearby roads (including Woh Chai Street, Nam Cheong Street and Berwick Street, etc.) brought by the increasing vehicular flow of the concerned project. The result indicated that the nearby road systems could cope with the traffic needs of the proposed development. However, she noted Members’ views on the traffic flow and would relay them to the Health Bureau and ArchSD which were responsible for the project for consideration at the design stage.

[Post-meeting note: According to TD’s recent site inspection, the present vehicular flow around the buildings near Woh Chai Street (including Shek Kip Mei Estate car park and

Ming Yin College) was not high. The traffic was more or less normal during peak hours at Woh Chai Street. The Department had already contacted the Health Bureau and relayed Members' views.]

18. The Chairman concluded that there would be numerous accesses of development projects in the vicinity of Woh Chai Street in the future. It was hoped that relevant departments would continue to monitor the vehicular flow and traffic condition at nearby location, adjust and improve various road facilities in due course.

(c) The handling and review of the functions of District Councils (SSPDC 6/23)

19. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 6/23. He supplemented that he had already submitted the paper before the deadline but it was not included in the first agenda. He wanted to know the reason.

20. The Chairman said that after receiving Members' papers, the Secretariat would first submit them to relevant departments for review to see if they complied with the functions of DC. He was puzzled about the arrangement and opined that the Secretariat could let SSPDC and relevant departments know about the papers simultaneously.

21. The District Officer responded that according to Article 97 of the Basic Law, district organisations which were not organs of political power might be established in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, to be consulted by the government of the Region on district administration and other affairs, or to be responsible for providing services in such fields as culture, recreation and environmental sanitation. Article 98 of the Basic Law stated that the powers and functions of the district organisations and the method for their formation should be prescribed by law. On the same note, Section 61(a) of the District Councils Ordinance ("DCO") (Cap. 547) had stated relevant issues and functions. The questions mentioned in the paper were territory-wide issues. According to the established practice, the Government would determine the consultation method and time in accordance with needs. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau ("HYAB") and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau ("CMAB") were conducting a review on district administration as per the Chief Executive's request to ensure future arrangements would be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level. Relevant bureaux would announce the details in due course. SSPDO would continue to maintain good and reasonable communication with DC Members and work closely with them in accordance with DC functions as stated in the ordinance. Lastly, he stated that he needed to leave the meeting to handle urgent official duties, and representatives of government departments would not make any comments on the issue.

22. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she noted that HYAB and CMAB were conducting a review on district administration to ensure future arrangements would be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level. As Member, she would reflect district views to the Government in due course. She then said that she would leave the meeting with Mr Leo HO now to handle an urgent case of a resident.

23. The Chairman said that Members could enter and leave the Conference Room at will and did not need Chairman’s consent.

24. Ms Janet NG said that Members’ duties were to reflect public’s views. The Government was going backwards if indirect election or appointment system was adopted in the coming DC election. She then said that some appointed DC Members who were underperformed were able to be reappointed in the past. She questioned whether Members chosen from indirect election and appointment system could reflect public’s views.

25. Mr Jay LI said that improving the electoral system of the LegCo had already achieved the purpose of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. He opined that the Government did not need to drastically amend the DC electoral system. If constituencies were re-demarcated, resources might not be enough to serve the entire constituency. It was hoped that seats returned by direct election could be fully retained in DC. Besides, he was also concerned if the Government would consult district and incumbent Members on the review.

26. Mr Ramon YUEN said that reducing the number of seats returned by direct election was backtracking along the path to democratic development, undermining the degree of participation and public influence. He hoped that the Government would seriously consider if the change was conducive to constitutional development. Besides, he opined that the District Officer’s response could not help maintain good communication with SSPDC. He moved a provisional motion regarding Paper 6/23, and Ms Janet NG seconded it, which read as follows:

“Direct election of DC is an important part of the democratic development in Hong Kong. The Council opines that any proposals reducing the number of seats returned by direct election of DC backtracks along the path to democratic development, which is unfavourable for constitutional development and undermines the influence of direct participation of the public. The Council opposes any arrangements which would reduce the number of seats or proportion returned by direct election of DC. The Council urges the Government to conduct an open and transparent consultation for the public first before making any decisions, instead of planning everything behind closed doors.”

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

For : Mr CHUM Tak-shing, Mr Jay LI, Ms Janet NG, Mr Ramon YUEN (4)

Against : (0)

Abstain : (0)

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

29. The Chairman concluded that having a large number of vacant elected seats in DC would affect the public reflecting district views to the Government, which was undesirable. He hoped that SSPDO would review the practice of giving responses to Members' questions and the handling of papers, and that the Government would respect DC. He stressed that Chairman had the right to review the papers submitted by Members first.

Agenda Item 3: Reports from Committees under the District Council

(a) Report from the District Facilities and Community Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 7/23)

(b) Report from the Environment, Hygiene and Housing Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 8/23)

(c) Report from the Planning Development and Transport Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 9/23)

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

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

31. Members did not raise any other business.

Agenda Item 5: Date of next meeting

32. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 9 May 2023 (Tuesday).

33. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:31 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
May 2023