

(Translation)

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)
under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 23 February 2021 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr YEUNG Yuk

Members

Ms CHAU Yuen-man, Eunice

Ms CHOW Wing-heng, Zoé

(Left at 5:34 p.m.)

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

(Arrived at 2:30 p.m.)

Mr HO Kai-ming, Calvin

(Left at 4:11 p.m.)

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

(Arrived at 9:36 a.m., left at 1:15 p.m.)

Mr KONG Kwai-sang

(Arrived at 9:45 a.m.)

Mr LAO Ka-hang, Andy

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

(Left at 5:40 p.m.)

Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence

(Left at 1:16 p.m.)

Mr LEE Hon-ting, Howard

(Left at 10 a.m.)

Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos

(Arrived at 9:45 a.m.)

Mr LI Chun-hei, Joshua

Mr LI Kwing, Richard

Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay

Mr MAK Wai-ming

(Arrived at 10:10 a.m., left at 4:15 p.m.)

Ms NG Mei, Carman

(Arrived at 10 a.m., left at 4:15 p.m.)

Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet

(Left at 2 p.m.)

Mr SIN Kam-ho, Jeffrey

Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH, JP

Mr TSUI Yat-hin, Ronald

(Left at 1:15 p.m.)

Mr WAI Woon-nam

Mr WONG Kit-long

(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.)

Mr YAN Kai-wing

(Left at 1:30 p.m.)

Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon

In Attendance

Mr WONG Yan-yin, Paul, JP	District Officer (Sham Shui Po)
Mr LEE Wai-yin, Brett	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1
Mr LAM Wui-tsun, Brian	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Miss CHIN Wai-sheung, Doris	Senior Liaison Officer 1, Sham Shui Po District Office
Miss LAU Sze-nga, Vivicia	Senior Liaison Officer 2, Sham Shui Po District Office
Ms CHAN Siu-ping, Daphne	Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr TAM Kin-fai, Simon	Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr YEUNG Chong-tak, Clarence	Chief Engineer/S1, South Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LI Ping-chi	Senior Engineer/3 (S), South Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LING Kuk-yi	Chief Manager/M (KWS), Housing Department
Mrs CHENG IP Sau-fong, Susanna	Senior Housing Manager/KWS 1, 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 CHAN Chi-suen, Rex	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 SUM Siu-hin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LIM Ying-lam	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TSE Kong-wai, Eric	Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 1, Transport Department
Professor Albert LEE	Director of Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, the School of Public Health and Primary Care, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Professor Eman LEUNG	Assistant Professor, the School of Public Health and Primary Care, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Ms MOK Yuk-ha, Christine	Curator (Historical Buildings) 2 (acting), Antiquities and Monuments Office

Mr YUEN Chi-tai, Humphrey

Assistant Curator I (Monument Bldg) 2, Antiquities and Monuments Office

Mr HO Lai-wa

Chief Engineer/Kowloon, Water Supplies Department

Mr LAM Wai-kei

Senior Engineer/Kowloon 1, Water Supplies Department

Mr CHUNG Yan-chi, Jocky

Principal Estate Officer /Kowloon West (North), Lands Department

Mr KWOK Yin-lee, Ivan

Senior Estate Officer, Shui On Properties Management Limited

Secretary

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 seventh meeting of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”). He said that Mr Paul WONG, District Officer (Sham Shui Po) would attend the future meetings in place of Mr LEE Kwok-hung, Damian, who had been transferred out; Mr Jim NG, District Commander (Sham Shui Po) of the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”), would attend the future meetings in place of Mr HO Kai-hin, Tony, who had been transferred out; Mr David KWAN, Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), and Ms Goldie SHING, District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would attend the future meetings in place of Mr LUK Chi-kwong and Ms LEE Shuk-ling, Agnes, respectively, who had been transferred out; and Mr Clarence YEUNG, Chief Engineer/S1, South Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department would attend the future meetings in place of Mr LEE Wai-man, Raymond, who had been transferred out. To reduce the risk of the spread of the epidemic, the attendees had already checked their temperatures and registered their names before entering the Conference Room. Moreover, the public gallery would not be opened and the meeting would be completed as early as possible.

Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 6th meeting held on 10 November 2020

2. Mr Ramon YUEN enquired why the said minutes of meeting did not record agenda items from 2(j) to 2(n). As the minutes were incomplete, he proposed not to endorse them.

3. The Chairman enquired about Members’ views on the said suggestion. He said that as the above minutes of meeting did not include the aforesaid agenda items, he proposed not to endorse the minutes of meeting of the 6th meeting for the time being. Members raised no objection.

4. Mr Ramon YUEN opined that as the content of agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) were similar, he suggested discussing the two papers together. He then moved a motion to change the order of the agenda items in accordance with Order 13(2) of the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders (“Standing Orders”), agenda item 2(l) would be followed by items 2(e), 2(n) and 2(m).

5. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu enquired whether the reason for not recording the agenda items from 2(j) to 2(n) in the relevant minutes of meeting was because the government departments opined that the said agenda items were not compatible with DC functions, and whether the Department of Health (“DH”) had sent representatives to the meeting to answer Members’ enquiries about agenda items 2(e) and 2(n). If not, he suggested the

Council arrange the order of the agenda items in response to actual circumstances.

6. The Chairman responded that DH did not send representatives to the meeting.

7. The Secretary responded that DC Chairman had been informed before the previous meeting, and reiterated at the meeting that as the Government opined that the said agenda items were not district affairs, the discussion of the relevant papers were not compatible with DC functions stipulated in the District Council Ordinance (“DCO”). The Secretariat would not provide support services, including the preparation of minutes of meeting and uploading the audio records of meetings.

8. The Chairman said that according to Order 13(2) of the Standing Orders, subject to the consent of more than half of the members of the Council present at the meeting, the Chairman might, at the commencement and in the course of the meeting, approve the inclusion of an item in the agenda or adjustment of the order of business on the agenda. He then enquired about Members’ views on re-arranging the order of the agenda items.

9. Ms LAU Pui-yuk agreed that minutes of meeting should not record the discussion of items which contravened DCO. She also said that in general, the order of the agenda items was arranged in accordance with the submission time of papers. To avoid the representatives of government departments not being able to attend the meeting due to the sudden agenda change, she opposed her paper being arranged to be discussed after agenda item 2(l).

10. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired of the Secretariat about the reasons for not providing papers of agenda items 2(m) and 2(n).

11. The Chairman said that he had been informed before the meeting that relevant departments opined that agenda items 2(m) and 2(n) were not district affairs. Therefore, the discussion of relevant papers was incompatible with DC functions stipulated in DCO. He did not agree with it, and responded that the submission time was not the sole factor when deciding the order of agenda items. He then said that according to Order 13(2) of the Standing Orders, he asked Members to vote on the motion moved by Mr Ramon YUEN.

12. The meeting voted on Mr Ramon YUEN’s motion by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Ms Eunice CHAU, Ms Zoé CHOW, Mr Calvin HO,
Mr KONG Kwai-sang, Mr Andy LAO, Mr Lawrence LAU,
Mr Howard LEE, Mr Joshua LI, Mr Leos LEE,

Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI, Ms Janet NG, Mr Jeffrey SIN,
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, Mr Ronald TSUI, Mr WAI Woon-nam,
Mr WONG Kit-long, Mr YAN Kai-wing, Mr YEUNG Yuk,
Mr Ramon YUEN (20)

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

Abstain: (0)

13. The Secretary announced the voting result: 20 Members voted for the motion, 2 Members voted against it and no Member abstained. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried, and the order of the agenda items would be changed.

Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) To perfect the service and operation of Sham Shui Po District Health Centre through data and policy design (SSPDC Paper 3/21)

14. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 3/21.

15. Professor Albert LEE gave a brief report and hoped that he could obtain the original data of the Community Diagnosis Study Report (“CDSR”) in 2002/2003 through the District Council (“DC”)’s authorisation.

16. Ms Janet NG said that grassroots residents made up the majority of the population in Sham Shui Po District (“SSP District”). Various anti-epidemic operations had been carried out in the district amid the epidemic. She opined that it would help improve the community if the issue was followed up by the Working Group on Healthy and Safe Community (“WGHSC”).

17. Mr Ramon YUEN hoped that the Secretariat would help obtain the original data of the relevant report. As the report was written about 20 years ago, he enquired if the data therein was no longer applicable to the present situation. Besides, he enquired about the timetable for implementing the project, including the study duration and relevant progress, in order to focus on handling the relevant funding applications. He then enquired whether some areas would be selected as the core targets of the project.

18. The Chairman added that SSP District had undergone huge changes in recent years with frequent movement of population. He enquired whether the Study Report was still applicable to the present society.

19. Professor Albert LEE responded that artificial intelligence (“AI”) could not directly replace medical infrastructure. He then said that old data still had reference values as it could be used to examine the necessity to conduct a more comprehensive study next year.

20. Professor Eman LEUNG responded that as SSP District occupied a vast area, it would take more time to collect new data during the diagnostic and testing process. Besides, he opined that old data also helped kick-start the project. He said that residents were more prone to sickness due to the living environment and structure of buildings in SSP District. He then said that through the use of old data, the team could select buildings which had higher risks as targets for conducting detailed testing so that policies would be advocated to help those in need. As District Health Centre (“DHC”) would come into operation within this year, he hoped that the data projected by AI could complement DHC to provide services.

21. Mr Jay LI doubted the reliability of the data. Besides, he enquired how to effectively apply the data on the Health Centre or town planning. He then pointed out that it was usually much easier to obtain data on senior persons, while data on other age groups such as women, children and working class would be more difficult to collect. He enquired how to obtain the data on other groups in order to utilise AI effectively.

22. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu agreed that DC had to give authorisation in order to obtain the data of CDSR for study. He pointed out that DC had provided funds to organisations for conducting many useful studies in the past, but the contents were rarely made public. Besides, when the Health Center came into operation, the Government needed to review afresh the provision of medical services in the community in recent decade. Moreover, he suggested emphasis should be put on protecting personal privacy when collecting and using personal data to ease public concern.

23. Mr Ramon YUEN said that in June last year, the Buildings Department (“BD”) had invited consultancy firms to inspect the external pipes of private buildings across the territory under the Anti-epidemic Fund. He suggested that information could be obtained through this channel for reference.

24. Professor Albert LEE responded that the study would be vetted and approved by the University’s Ethics Committee, and the team would strive to protect data to avoid the leakage of personal data. To safeguard public interest, he agreed that the information obtained in the study should be disclosed for public reference. Regarding how to strike a balance between the promotion of open data and protection of privacy, further discussion should be conducted. He pointed out that the data collected through assessment could explain the connection between the social ecology and health, which

would help patients recover gradually by improving the ancillary facilities in the community.

25. Professor Eman LEUNG said that human contacts posed risks due to the severe epidemic situation of COVID-19. Therefore, the data in CDSR could be used as a starting point, which helped to identify high-risk buildings aged 30 years or above and lessen the relevant information required for evaluation. Besides, he learnt that the Hospital Authority also studied the medical needs of people with various risks and from different age groups.

26. The Chairman concluded that SSP District had different types of buildings. The Health Centre would set up a district office in response to the demographic structure, health condition, etc. of the constituency and provide different types of services to residents. He agreed to release the data in CDSR to the team from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and requested the Secretariat to help retrieve the report data. He suggested WGHSC could facilitate the process.

(b) Strong request for speeding up the grading of the structure and developing the site into a public open space with conservation value (SSPDC Paper 4/21)

(c) Request for conserving the heritage of Kowloon Tong service reservoir in Woh Chai Shan (SSPDC Paper 5/21)

27. The Chairman said that as the said two papers were similar in nature, he suggested discussing them together.

28. Members had no objection.

29. Ms LAU Pui-yuk introduced Paper 4/21. The District Facilities Committee had discussed the issue earlier but the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) did not send representatives to the meeting. She enquired about the latest position on the temporary strengthening works by the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”). As the access road on Mission Hill was quite narrow and obstructed rescue work, she hoped that WSD could consider widening the access road on the hill in one go. Besides, she also enquired of AMO about the grading and conservation proposal of the service reservoir.

30. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 5/21. The recent minutes and audio records of meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) did not mention the service reservoir, therefore he opined that the then Commissioner for Heritage should take responsibility for the incident. Moreover, the performance of AMO in handling numerous historic buildings had been disappointing. He thought that AMO should take

responsibility and apologise to the public. Since AMO had carried out a territory-wide survey of historic buildings, he enquired if service reservoirs were covered in the survey. Besides, WSD had indicated that after confirming the service reservoir was safe, the facility would be reopened to the public in limited ways. He hoped to enquire about the relevant progress.

31. Ms Christine MOK introduced AMO's Response Paper 23/21.

32. Mr LAM Wai-kei used photos to show the present condition of the service reservoir. In response to public concern, WSD had stopped the demolition works of the service reservoir on 28 December last year, and temporary strengthening and tidying up works was commenced on 5 January this year, which would last for about three months. The Department had already constructed a temporary access road and drainage system and had properly stored the pebbles gathered from the works area. The Department was now transporting the required materials to the site for carrying out the strengthening works for the service reservoir and provision of a temporary shelter, etc.

33. Mr HO Lai-wa added that as the service reservoir had been installed for over 100 years and had cracks, a works consultant company was commissioned by WSD for inspection to evaluate the suitability of the site for visit with a view to organising guided tours. WSD would also inspect the width of the access road with the works contractor.

34. Ms Janet NG condemned AMO for lacking awareness in monument conservation work and hoped that AMO would review it. She enquired of WSD about the remedial work for the demolished parts of the service reservoir.

35. Ms Zoé CHOW said that WSD had consulted AAB before commencing the demolition works. However, AAB said that it was not necessary to conserve the service reservoir, which was a dereliction of duty on the part of AMO. AMO had conducted a survey on 8 800 historic buildings in Hong Kong from 1996 to 2000, but in-depth investigation was only conducted on 1 444 buildings and with information made known to the public. The information about the remaining buildings had not disclosed yet. She enquired of the AMO about the information of the historic buildings which had not been thoroughly investigated yet and whether service reservoirs were included in the survey list. Regarding the conservation proposal, she suggested AMO make reference to the conservation of underground cisterns in other countries.

36. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that AMO needed to give an account to the public on how it handled monuments similar to the service reservoir in the past, and enquired whether the grading of historic building would affect the conservation proposal. To protect the ecology of Mission Hill, he opined that AMO should consult the public on the

conservation proposal. As AMO responded that the grading of the service reservoir was expected to be completed in March, he enquired about the follow up work when the grading was confirmed.

37. Ms Eunice CHAU said that since AMO was negligent in the conservation work of the service reservoir, she enquired whether AMO would review its conservation policy on monuments by assessing afresh those monuments which had been given no-grade to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents.

38. Mr Kalvin HO queried that AAB did not fully understand the historic value of the service reservoir when considering its grading. He then asked AMO about the progress on the grading of the service reservoir, conservation proposal, and whether residents could take part in it. Besides, it was stated in AMO's response paper that a working group led by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) was reviewing the grading of service reservoir. He enquired about the composition of the working group and its progress, and hoped that AMO could provide more relevant information.

39. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that the service reservoir incident reflected that the existing conservation policy on monuments was seriously inadequate and should be reviewed. She hoped that AMO would take a leading role on the conservation work of monuments in future. She then asked AMO about the format of public consultation. She quoted the North Kowloon Magistracy being revitalised as the Savannah College of Art and Design Hong Kong as an example, pointing out that the privatisation of monument might make it isolated from the community. She hoped that the public could participate in the conservation work of the service reservoir.

40. Ms Christine MOK responded that the Government was open-minded towards the conservation proposal of the former Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir and would examine the long-term conservation and revitalisation proposal after the temporary strengthening and tidying up works was completed by WSD. Members of the public were welcome to offer views. In regard to grading, AMO had visited the service reservoir for inspection with WSD's assistance, and would prepare a study report by gathering historical information. The study report would be handled in the manner as stated in AMO's response paper. If the proposed grading was endorsed at the AAB's meeting later, the proposed grading and the relevant information about the service reservoir would be uploaded onto the AAB's website, and a one-month public consultation would be conducted.

41. Mr Humphrey YUEN responded that the public could offer views on the heritage value of the service reservoir to AAB during the public consultation period after the AAB's meeting for discussing the proposed grading of the service reservoir in March this

year. AMO had conducted a survey on the buildings built before 1950, and would handle the buildings to be graded gradually.

42. Mr LAM Wai-kei responded that WSD would consult AMO's views on the temporary strengthening and tidying up works of the water tank, and follow up on the design and works accordingly.

43. The Chairman said that the survey conducted by AMO earlier might not meet the public's expectation.

44. Mr Leos LEE said that some members of the public might have to shoulder criminal liability for breaking into the service reservoir. He appealed to the Government not to pursue further.

45. Mr Jay LI said that according to the existing monument conservation policy, the conservation work could only be outsourced to community organisations or non-governmental organisations. He opined that shifting the conservation responsibility to outsourced organisations was unfair. He hoped that AMO could disclose the survey information for public access.

46. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that AAB and AMO were bureaucratic and their responses were monotonous. He opined that the service reservoir incident reflected that WSD and AMO were rigid in regard to monument conservation. He suggested AMO declare the service reservoir as a monument to avoid it becoming a private development project.

47. Mr WAI Woon-nam hoped that AMO could accept Members' views and proposed that if the service reservoir was declared as a monument, AMO could set up a heritage trail by linking together other monuments within the district and promote it to the public for visiting.

48. Mr WONG Kit-long enquired of AMO about the details of the Kowloon Waterworks Gravitation Scheme and the conservation proposal of the relevant facility. He opined that AMO was very passive in the handling of the service reservoir and suggested AMO work with conservation organisations and historians. Besides, he suggested that AMO develop a database to collect views and disclose the information for public access.

49. Mr YAN Kai-wing said that historic buildings encapsulated the collective memory of members of the public. The service reservoir incident reminded the public of the importance of the conservation of historic buildings.

50. Mr Ramon YUEN said that AMO's response paper mentioned the AAB's earlier meeting, but he could not search any relevant key words in its minutes of meeting. Besides, he hoped to know about the details of the working group set up by the Development Bureau ("DEVB") mentioned in the response paper.

51. Ms Christine MOK responded that Members' views on the survey list were noted. Besides, AAB had arranged members to inspect the service reservoir with WSD's help. Moreover, to ensure the relevant building would be properly protected at the current stage, AAB also put the service reservoir on the list of new items which required grading and informed the relevant departments.

52. Mr Humphrey YUEN reiterated that AAB would examine the study report on the heritage value of the former Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir and the proposed grading at its meeting in March this year. After the proposed grading was confirmed by AAB, AMO would upload the relevant information about the item and the proposed grading onto AAB's website, and conduct a one-month public consultation. AAB would consider all the views and information received during the public consultation period before confirming the relevant grading.

53. Mr LAM Wai-kei showed the photographs again and explained the interior condition of the service reservoir at the moment.

54. The Chairman enquired of the AMO about the content of the AAB's earlier meeting, whether it would apologise to the public for the mishandling of the service reservoir and whether it would enhance the transparency of the handling of monuments.

55. Ms Christine MOK responded that the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) was leading a working group to examine the handling of issue by relevant departments and would propose improvement measures to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents.

56. The Chairman enquired of WSD about the details of guided tours, and whether it would carry out relevant works in view of the approaching rainy season to avoid the structure of the service reservoir being destroyed by sunlight and flooding.

57. Mr HO Lai-wa responded that WSD would build a temporary shelter for the service reservoir and reiterated that a works consultant had been commissioned to inspect the service reservoir to ensure the guided tours would be arranged under safe conditions.

58. The Chairman said that Mr TAM Kwok-kiu moved an amended motion by adding "AMO's explanation cannot address public concern at all. AMO and WSD

should apologise to the public and residents of SSP District” after “serious misjudgment”.

59. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu hoped to reflect the current standpoint of Members through the amendment.

60. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he agreed with Mr TAM Kwok-kiu’s amendment and hoped to delete “conservation” in “WSD demolished the conservation....” in the motion.

61. The Chairman said that the amended motion read as follows:

“WSD’s decision to demolish the Fresh Water Break Pressure Tank at Mission Hill was a serious misjudgment of heritage conservation. AMO’s explanation cannot address public concern at all. AMO and WSD should apologise to the public and SSP residents. DEVB should examine and plug the policy loopholes at once, and take comprehensive remedial action at the same time, including to convene an emergency meeting of AAB, to declare the Fresh Water Break Pressure Tank at Mission Hill as a “proposed monument”, AAB to decide and declare the Fresh Water Break Pressure Tank at Mission Hill as a monument within a short period of time, to give a comprehensive account of the degree of damage to the monument caused by the demolition works, to give an account of the restoration and conservation plans for the monument as soon as possible, and to conduct a survey on the historical underground buildings in the territory, etc.”

62. The meeting voted on the amended motion.

63. Since no Member present at the meeting voted against it or abstained from voting, the Chairman announced that the said amended motion was carried unanimously.

64. The Chairman said that he received a Provisional Motion, which was moved by Mr Calvin HO and seconded by Mr TAM Kwok-kiu. It read as follows:

“I move a motion to set up a working group on the conservation of Mission Hill under the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”).

65. Mr Calvin HO said that as AMO and WSD had not yet been able to provide a concrete response on the conservation of the service reservoir, he moved a motion to set up a working group. He urged the government departments to give an account to the Council on the conservation work of the service reservoir and be honest to the public.

66. The Chairman agreed with the setting up of a working group, and added that the conservation work of the service reservoir had to be closely followed up in future. He

hoped that the working group could widely invite people from different fields to participate, and DC could deploy resources to the working group for carrying out relevant studies and let members of the public to participate.

67. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that the conservation of Mission Hill had long been DC's concerned issue for years. He opined that the service reservoir issue had offered the grassroots citizens in the community an educational exposure.

68. Mr Jeffrey SIN hoped that WSD could provide more relevant information about the service reservoir to DC for reference.

69. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he agreed with the setting up of a working group to continue to follow up on the matter and hoped that Members could proactively participate.

70. The Chairman reminded relevant Members to submit the terms of reference of the working group to the Secretariat as early as possible before the next DC meeting.

71. The meeting voted on the provisional motion.

72. Since no Member present at the meeting voted against it or abstained from voting, the Chairman announced that the said provisional Motion was carried unanimously.

73. The Chairman concluded that he hoped WSD and AMO could proactively participate in the relevant work of the working group.

(d) Concern over the situation where members of the public experience problems in connecting to 1823 and their phone calls being disconnected under the special work arrangement (SSPDC Paper 6/21)

74. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 6/21.

75. The Chairman asked Members to refer to the Response Paper of the Efficiency Office (Paper 17/21)

76. Mr YAN Kai-wing said that 1823 had once promised to provide emergency support services to the public. Therefore, he opined that the situation of telephones lines being disconnected or no one answered should not occur even under the "special work arrangement".

77. Mr Leos LEE added that to avoid affecting the operation in the community, 1823

should increase manpower to help handle emergency situation, including the persistent incidents of power outages of streetlights after dark, etc.

78. Mr Jeffrey SIN hoped that SSPDO could help obtain the 24-hour Emergency Telephone Hotlines of government departments to handle emergency situation so as to lower the usage rate of 1823.

79. Ms Janet NG said that 1823 was the hotline for the public to enquire about urgent problems. Therefore, she was dissatisfied that only limited services were available under the “special work arrangement”.

80. The Chairman said that as HKPF might not be able to handle all district matters directly, such as problems like bodies of animals, he opined that advising members of the public to call 999 as stated in Response Paper 17/21 was not feasible. Regarding the emergency situation mentioned by Members, he suggested that papers be submitted at individual committees and discussed with relevant departments to address the above persistent problems in the community.

81. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that the one-stop telephone calls were usually picked up by government offices, and might not be able to be referred to the relevant officers-in-charge at once.

82. The District Officer responded that SSPDO might check with various departments if they could provide their emergency telephone numbers after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had provided the emergency contact list to Members of SSPDC for reference on 23 March.]

83. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu hoped to have the emergency telephone numbers of the management level officers of relevant departments such as mobile phone numbers so as to facilitate the administrative operation of the district.

84. The Chairman concluded that he hoped that 1823 could maintain its previous service standard and efficiency after resuming normal services.

(f) Concern over the procedural loopholes of the Department of Health in transferring close contacts to quarantine centres (SSPDC Paper 8/21)

85. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 8/21 and requested the Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”) of DH to also notify Members when reporting confirmed cases to the Housing Department (“HD”) so that Members could provide immediate assistance.

86. The Chairman said that before the meeting, the Secretariat had invited representatives from DH to the meeting but were declined by the parties concerned. Members were asked to refer to the written response of CHP (Paper 18/21). He enquired whether relevant departments would notify HD before transferring close contacts.

87. Ms LING Kuk-yi responded that relevant departments would not notify HD before transferring close contacts living in housing estates to quarantine centres. Generally speaking, to avoid delay in emergency ambulance services, the Department would not restrict ambulancemen's access to specified areas. The Department noted Members' views and would follow up on the environmental sanitisation arrangements in housing estates taken after transfers were completed.

88. Mr WONG Kit-long was concerned about the transparency of anti-epidemic information. He said that some residents had felt scared about the arrangements for transferring close contacts to quarantine centres as they had not been notified in advance. He hoped that the Government would provide more detailed information to residents through SSPDO and HD to ease their concerns. Also, he enquired which department was responsible for transferring close contacts and how the transfers would be carried out.

89. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu agreed that information about confirmed cases and related close contacts should be provided in advance to Members of the constituencies concerned and relevant departments, and said that HD could make proper arrangements according to the reports in advance, such as registering visitors' information in advance and arranging exclusive lifts. He then suggested that HD should perform environmental sanitisation at public areas of buildings immediately after close contacts were transferred.

90. Mr Richard LI opined that there were still inadequacies in the sanitisation work of HD on residential units of confirmed cases and pointed out that relatives and friends of some confirmed cases could still access their units freely, which greatly increased the risks of infection and transmission. He enquired whether HD and SSPDO would address the problems concerned properly.

91. Mr YAN Kai-wing said that under the current policies, complete addresses of confirmed cases would not be announced, which would affect other residents' risk assessments. He pointed out that personal privacy should not be placed above the overall interest of the society, and members of the public should be provided with the most updated information to facilitate implementation of appropriate preventive measures as early as possible. He then enquired which department was responsible for disinfecting dwellings of confirmed cases.

92. Ms LING Kuk-yi gave a consolidated response saying that to facilitate the relevant drainage pipe inspections performed by HD in due course, DH would provide the floor and unit numbers of the units involved in the cases to HD for internal use, while estate offices would provide other relevant information on epidemic prevention on a case-by-case basis, but the Department needed to protect personal privacy and ensure that information was used only for the purposes specified by the departments releasing it. Currently, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) would disinfect the public housing estate units of confirmed cases after contacting their relatives and friends, while HD would provide assistance if necessary.

93. Mr SUM Siu-hin responded that after receiving reports on confirmed cases, FEHD, together with staff of HD and under the tenants’ arrangements, would access the units concerned to carry out environmental sanitisation.

94. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired if departments could announce approximate levels of the floors confirmed cases living on, e.g. high, middle or low floors, and whether street cleansing workers were provided with adequate protective equipment. He then suggested that CHP report confirmed cases to HD and Members of the constituencies concerned concurrently to facilitate provision of immediate assistance by Members.

95. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that to avoid disrupting the traffic in the district, FEHD, after receiving reports on confirmed cases, would arrange for street washing vehicles to wash the streets and rear lanes in the vicinity of the residential buildings of confirmed cases in the morning with 1:49 diluted bleach. The Department would also provide adequate protective clothing and equipment to protect frontline cleansing workers.

96. The District Officer responded that as SSPDO was not responsible for transferring close contacts, hence no relevant information could be provided. As for the follow-up work of departments during or after the transfer of close contacts, he believed that FEHD and HD had provided Members clear explanations. SSPDO would forward Members’ suggestions to DH after the meeting. He believed that with the prevailing measures and Members’ cooperation, local residents would be provided with suitable services.

97. The Chairman concluded that DC was very concerned about the arrangements for anti-epidemic work and hoped that DH would note Members’ views and provide specific responses to address Members’ enquiries.

(g) Urging the authorities to allocate more funds in 2021/2022 to help “three-nil buildings” in Sham Shui Po District improve environmental hygiene and fight against the

epidemic (SSPDC Paper 9/21)

98. Mr Andy LAO introduced Paper 9/21.

99. Mr Leos LEE said that pictures in the paper showed that at Park Lok Building, the fire escape route was blocked by miscellaneous objects and cracks were found in the drainage pipes, which seriously affected the environmental hygiene of the building. He requested departments to follow up and address the problems immediately.

100. The District Officer responded that SSPDO was very concerned about the situation of “three-nil buildings” in the district. SSPDO would continue to improve their situation through the District-led Actions Scheme (“DAS”), and hoped to secure more resources to help the residents concerned. Before the Chinese New Year, SSPDO had provided one-off cleansing services for public areas of some of the target buildings, distributed cleansing packs to residents, and coordinated with FEHD on placement of large litter bins. He believed that these efforts were effective in improving environmental hygiene of the buildings to some degree. Also, when conducting a “restriction-testing declaration” operation, SSPDO would provide residents with simple food and cleansing products to reduce the inconvenience caused to them.

101. Mr Simon TAM gave a supplementary response saying that regarding Members’ concern over matters including how to help “three-nil buildings” to establish owners’ corporations (“OCs”), improve environmental hygiene, etc., SSPDO had been providing relevant support services to owners of private buildings through different ways, and all of which had the same aim of encouraging and helping the owners to establish OCs, thereby improving the management quality and living environment. Apart from providing the cleansing services for public areas under DAS to help buildings improve environmental hygiene and let owners see the benefits of implementing effective building management, SSPDO also launched the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme and the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (“BMPASS”) in 2011, with a view to encouraging owners to participate in the management of their buildings and helping the buildings to establish OCs or resume the operation of inactive OCs. Regarding financial support, the Urban Renewal Authority, BD, the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”), etc., provided different funding schemes to give loans or allowances to eligible buildings and owners, while professional management companies under BMPASS would also help owners to apply for different subsidies for repair works and coordinate such works of the buildings. Also, starting in 2018, SSPDO gave one-stop briefings on various services and schemes on building management and maintenance to stakeholders through the Central Platform on Building Management in order to facilitate their access to relevant information. SSPDO hoped that building quality and management of private buildings would further improve through the multi-pronged approach as mentioned above.

102. Ms Janet NG said that the establishment of OCs of “three-nil buildings” required a longer time and therefore the problem of pipe cracks could not be addressed immediately. She requested relevant departments to provide repair services immediately to avoid the possibility of viruses in waste water spreading through the air.

103. Ms LAU Pui-yuk complimented relevant departments including SSPDO, the Police, etc., on their swift conduct of “restriction-testing declaration” operations, which might have caused temporary inconveniences to some residents but were able to ease the worries of the residents in the district. Problems with “three-nil buildings” were complicated and helping owners to establish OCs was surely a long-term measure, but it was also necessary for the Government to properly address urgent repair and management matters of “three-nil buildings” before that and she hoped that DAS could strengthen the cleansing of yards and platforms. Also, she pointed out that the public did not understand the mechanism for testing waste water samples from buildings and enquired if relevant departments would provide guidelines to ease their worries.

104. Mr Jay LI enquired how the one-off cleansing services provided to “three-nil buildings” by the Government in response to the epidemic differed from the regular cleansing under DAS, and he hoped that the cleansing and environmental sanitisation at locations including rear lanes and canopies of buildings could be enhanced. He also pointed out that “three-nil buildings” were not eligible to apply for the funding schemes for repair works under BD and enquired if the Government would provide support.

105. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired about the progress and effectiveness of the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme of SSPDO and whether HD would help newly moved in public housing tenants to establish mutual aid committees. He also urged HD to inspect all pipes on external walls of public housing buildings comprehensively and enquired which department was responsible for organising or subsidising the repair works for pipes on external walls of private buildings.

106. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the Government had earlier carried out inspections of drains on external walls of private buildings (“the inspection programme”) through the Anti-epidemic Fund. He enquired whether SSPDO could provide information on the buildings where drains were found to have problems in the district and hoped that relevant departments would allocate more resources to address the pipe problems of “three-nil buildings”.

107. Mr Leos LEE said that the cracks in pipes of Park Lok Building had led to the worsening of environmental hygiene problems in the vicinity. He hoped relevant departments would follow up immediately and wait until the completion of the repair works concerned to recover the costs of works from owners and take legal action against

those responsible.

108. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu suggested that the Government review the existing private building management mode and consider the feasibility of “street area management” mode. He also hoped the Government would pay for the urgent repair works of “three-nil buildings” first and recover the costs from residents later so as to address their pressing needs.

109. The District Officer gave a consolidated response saying that BD was responsible for the inspection programme and SSPDO did not have relevant information at the moment. Owners forming OCs on their own was the most effective way to improve the environment and hygiene of private buildings. Therefore, SSPDO proactively helped buildings to form OCs or resume the operation of inactive OCs through DAS, thereby helping residents of “three-nil buildings” to manage their buildings effectively for a long time. Surely, if the situation was urgent, relevant departments would still provide immediate support. Also, SSPDO was willing to send staff to the building mentioned in the paper for site inspections and see how suitable assistance could be provided.

110. Ms Janet NG enquired how departments handled urgent repair matters of “three-nil buildings”.

111. Mr Andy LAO said that there were relatively more residents in “three-nil buildings” and cracks in pipes of these buildings would easily cause the spread of the epidemic. Therefore, he requested the Government to handle the urgent repair works concerned first.

112. The Chairman suggested the Government make good use of resources to carry out pipe repair works for old-styled buildings with immediate needs so as to reduce the risk of viruses spreading through pipes. He then asked Members to vote on all the motions in Paper 9/21, which were moved by Mr Andy LAO and seconded by Mr Leos LEE.

113. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired which government department was responsible for engaging social welfare organisations to deploy outreach social workers in Motion 1.

114. Mr Andy LAO responded that he hoped SSPDO would coordinate with the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) to handle the matter above.

115. The meeting voted on Motion 1 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr YEUNG Yuk, Ms Janet NG, Mr Joshua LI, Ms Zoé CHOW,
Ms Eunice CHAU, Mr Andy LAO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk,
Mr Leos LEE, Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI, Mr Jeffrey SIN,
Mr WONG Kit-long, Mr Ramon YUEN (13)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Mr TAM Kwok-kiu (1)

116. The Chairman announced that Motion 1 was carried.

117. The meeting voted on Motion 2 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr YEUNG Yuk, Ms Zoé CHOW, Mr Andy LAO,
Mr Leos LEE, Mr Jeffrey SIN, Mr WONG Kit-long (6)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Ms Janet NG, Mr Joshua LI, Mr TAM Kwok-kiu,
Ms Eunice CHAU, Ms LAU Pui-yuk, Mr Richard LI,
Mr Jay LI (7)

118. The Chairman announced that Motion 2 was carried.

119. The meeting voted on Motion 3 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr YEUNG Yuk, Ms Janet NG, Mr Joshua LI,
Ms Eunice CHAU, Mr Andy LAO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk,
Mr Leos LEE, Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI, Mr WONG Kit-long,
Mr Ramon YUEN (11)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, Mr Jeffrey SIN (2)

120. The Chairman announced that Motion 3 was carried.

121. The meeting voted on Motion 4 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr YEUNG Yuk, Ms Janet NG, Mr Joshua LI, Ms Zoé CHOW,
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, Ms Eunice CHAU, Mr Andy LAO,

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, Mr Leos LEE, Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI,
Mr Jeffrey SIN, Mr WONG Kit-long, Mr Ramon YUEN (14)

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

122. The Chairman announced that Motion 4 was carried unanimously. He then concluded that it was hoped that relevant departments would note Members' views.

(h) Concern over the impact of Hong Kong people emigrating to other countries on Hong Kong and the community of Sham Shui Po (SSPDC Paper 10/21)

123. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 10/21.

124. Ms Wendy CHAU responded that SWD would draw reference from population census reports, thematic reports, etc., by the Census and Statistics Department to understand the population sizes of different groups of age, occupation, family background, ethnicity, etc. and their geographical distribution; it would follow the standards for the planning of social welfare facilities in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines by the Planning Department ("PlanD"); it would consider the welfare needs in the district and the overall demand for welfare services to draw up appropriate welfare plans. The Department would continue to maintain communication with stakeholders in the district and keep reviewing all types of welfare services through different ways in order to address the development and changes of the district and the whole society.

125. Mr Jay LI said that study results showed that there was a net population outflow from Hong Kong in 2020 and many people would move to the Greater Bay Area to live or work in future. He suggested departments make adjustments to the planning of housing, transport, social welfare plans and public services as early as possible using data on estimated population in future as reference. Also, he opined that with the population decreasing, it was no longer necessary to create land by reclamation and the Government should allocate the resources concerned to other projects.

126. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he hoped relevant departments or bureaux would provide the estimated number of people in Hong Kong who would move to the Greater Bay Area or foreign countries in the future. Also, according to PlanD's response paper, PlanD used the data as at the second quarter of 2020 as reference when updating the projections of population distribution. However, in view of the changes in the social and political situations in Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2020, the projections concerned might not reflect the actual situation of the society and he hoped PlanD would

follow up. On a different note, given the number of school-age children in Hong Kong was decreasing and the birth rates were also on the low side in recent years, he suggested the Education Bureau (“EDB”) further study the impact of changes in the social environment of Hong Kong on the education sector when analysing relevant data.

127. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that with Mainland cities developing continuously, people in Hong Kong could consider giving play to their strengths in the Greater Bay Area according to their personal development direction. Also, she opined that loving one’s own country was an obligation of and a right way for people in Hong Kong, while Members should uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the Special Administrative Region Government in both words and actions. Therefore, she suggested the Home Affairs Bureau (“HAB”) hold more national education activities to let Members know more about the situation of the country.

128. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that with high unemployment rates and expensive rents, the number of street sleepers in the district showed a rising trend. He hoped SWD would pay attention to that.

129. Mr Leos LEE said that a large number of people in Hong Kong would move to the Mainland or abroad in future and relevant departments should review afresh the allocation of resources in the district to ensure appropriate use of resources.

130. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that many people in Hong Kong emigrated due to the change in political climate or for personal development, and the loss of talents was unfavourable to the long-term development of Hong Kong. He opined that on one hand the Government should respect people’s freedom to enter or leave Hong Kong, but on the other hand it should also make efforts to encourage people in Hong Kong to stay. With the number of emigration cases rising and the projected number of school-age children decreasing, EDB should consider releasing some of the sites reserved so that they could be used for other purposes. Also, departments responsible for policies related to people’s livelihood should review afresh the planning of social welfare measures and land allocation according to people’s needs.

131. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that as shown in the response paper of EDB, there were substantial gaps between the total numbers of students in public sector primary and secondary schools in SSP District between 2015/16 and 2019/20 school years and the figures on projected school-age population in SSP District between 2020 and 2025 school years, while for public sector primary schools in SSP District, the total numbers of students were also higher than the total numbers of approved places. He hoped EDB would explain the reasons and provide more relevant information for reference.

132. Ms Wendy CHAU gave a consolidated response saying that SWD had been paying close attention to the situation of street sleepers, and also provided additional resources and strengthened the outreach work to provide street sleepers with social welfare support and refer them to suitable services according to their needs, including mental health needs, medical needs, etc. Also, SWD would keep reviewing the planning of social welfare services to address the overall social development of Hong Kong.

133. Mr Ramon YUEN said that a Member had suggested that HAB hold more national education activities but the paper he submitted on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China was determined by relevant departments as not compatible with the functions as stipulated in DCO. He opined that the decision concerned was unreasonable.

134. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said again that loving one's own country was an obligation of and a correct concept for people in Hong Kong.

135. The Chairman concluded that as the number of emigrants was expected to increase gradually, it was suggested that relevant departments should re-assess the demands for public services including education, housing, social welfare, etc., in SSP District and adjust the allocation of resources accordingly. Also, he expressed regret over the refusal of EDB and PlanD to send representatives to the meeting to address Members' enquiries and suggested that relevant committees of DC follow up on the above issues.

(i) Continue to follow up on the work relating to the large numbers of unauthorised display of publicity materials in Sham Shui Po District in the first half of October last year (SSPDC Paper 11/21)

136. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 11/21.

137. Mr SUM Siu-hin introduced Response Paper 21/21.

138. Mr Jocky CHUNG introduced Response Paper 22/21.

139. Ms Zoé CHOW enquired whether members of the public or organisations could display banners at non-designated spots at will.

140. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she had found that some political parties and organisations were displaying banners with illegal content in the district and hoped relevant departments would follow up on all illegal acts seriously.

141. Mr Leos LEE made an enquiry saying that the Lands Department (“LandsD”) had handled his unauthorised banners in public holidays before, but when he complained other unauthorised banners to LandsD’s contractor, Shui On Properties Management Limited (“Shui On”), on 30 September last year, Shui On replied that they could only follow up after the public holiday. He hoped LandsD and Shui On would explain whether they would operate as usual during public holidays.

142. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped relevant departments would enforce the law against unauthorised publicity materials of different organisations or with different content using the same standards. Also, he suggested that relevant departments consider setting up an online system to display the locations of all designated spots and what was being displayed there, so as to allow the public to help with monitoring and report illegal acts.

143. Mr Jocky CHUNG gave a consolidated response saying that the display of unauthorised items such as vertical banners, coloured flags, etc. at locations other than roadside designated spots, and the banners displayed at designated spots by people without the permission granted under the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials did not fall under the purview of LandsD. LandsD was mainly responsible for managing the banners displayed at designated spots by people with the permission granted under the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials. If illegal situations were observed, it would contact FEHD as quickly as possible for follow up. Also, LandsD’s headquarters was actively developing an online system which allowed the public to access information on all designated spots in the territory and the Department would provide the details of that system to DC in due course.

144. Mr Ivan KWOK gave a consolidated response saying that staff of Shui On had fixed working hours but they would also work during public holidays to handle complaints if the circumstances so required.

145. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped LandsD would put the above online system into service as soon as possible so that non-profit organisations and social welfare organisations could access information on the usage of designated spots in the district and apply to use vacant designated spots, allowing the locations where display of banners was permitted in the district to be fully utilised.

146. The Chairman concluded that the problem of unauthorised banners in the district was slightly improved and it was hoped that relevant departments would continue to follow up on the violated cases in the district and handle the complaints concerned as

quickly as possible.

(j) Concern whether the expenditure on festive lighting in Sham Shui Po District in recent months was proper under the continuous prohibition on group gatherings (SSPDC Paper 12/21)

147. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 12/21.

148. The Chairman enquired whether the focus of the paper was on cleaning problems or the expenditures.

149. Mr Jeffrey SIN responded that he hoped to have discussions about both issues.

150. The Chairman said that DC did not sponsor festive lighting this year and it was handled by the Sham Shui Po Festival Lighting Committee instead. He opined that the transparency was quite low.

151. The District Officer responded that this year's festive lighting activities in Sham Shui Po were organised by the Sham Shui Po Festival Lighting Organizing Committee ("SSPFLOC"), with SSPDO as a co-organiser, and festive lighting would be displayed at around 10 locations in the district during the Christmas and Chinese New Year periods to enhance the festive ambience in the district; the lighting would be dismantled after the completion of the activities in March this year.

152. The Chairman enquired about the amount of funds of the activities.

153. The District Officer responded that HAD allocated some \$800,000 to SSPFLOC to organise the activities.

154. Mr Leos LEE enquired about the mechanism for forming SSPFLOC, whether any DC Member participated in it and about the tendering procedures for the activities.

155. The District Officer responded that the tendering process was carried out in accordance with the Government's procurement procedures, including sending tender invitations to all eligible contractors on the list and accepting the lowest tender. Appointed members of SSPFLOC did not include any DC Members; the criteria for appointing members included the level of familiarity with that affair, district service experiences, etc., which were more or less the same as the criteria for selecting members for other activities.

156. Ms LAU Pui-yuk expressed regret over DC's decision of not allocating funds to

organise festive lighting activities last year because some people had brought the absence of festive lighting in the district to her attention. Although there were impacts from the epidemic and the economic downturn, she opined that an appropriate quantity of festive celebration activities should be carried out and hoped that the Government would organise different activities to enhance festive ambience.

157. Mr Ramon YUEN was concerned about various aspects of festive lighting including its use of energy, carbon emission, light pollution, etc., and enquired if the impact of lighting on the environment would be studied in future.

158. Mr Leos LEE suggested appointing Members to SSPFLOC. He opined that given DC did not have a leading role in festive lighting activities, it was difficult for DC to endorse the funding application concerned.

159. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that most of the Members of the current-term DC opined that it was not necessary to allocate funds to festive lighting and believed that the Members who supported lighting would understand the concept therein.

160. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that the public had mixed reactions to festive lighting and some people did not want to see the display. He then said that he was concerned about the occupational safety of the contractor's workers because they needed to install lighting in the middle of busy roads. He was also concerned about the environmental hygiene problems caused during the installation.

161. The Chairman said that after learning that the workers responsible for installing lighting had not used elevating platforms to do work at height, he had immediately filed a complaint with the Labour Department ("LD"), but the installation had been completed at the time. He opined that SSPDO failed to properly monitor the activities it allocated funds to. Also, during the installation of lighting, he found that items were placed in the vicinity, causing environmental hygiene problems. He said that DC had discussed the festive lighting activities and finally decided not to endorse the funding application concerned. However, SSPDO decided on its own to allocate funds to the activities and there was not much to criticise about the decision, but the activities should not cause occupational safety and environmental hygiene problems.

162. The District Officer responded that occupational safety was emphasised and it was stated clearly in the contract with the contractor that LD's terms must be complied with. Therefore, after receiving the views concerned, SSPDO had immediately reminded the contractor in writing that it was necessary to strictly comply with LD's requirements. As for enquiries on energy aspect, it would be more appropriate for the Environment Bureau to give responses. As far as he knew, the Charter on External

Lighting required all non-static lighting to be switched off after 11 p.m., and the requirement was slightly relaxed during festive periods; the festive lighting in Sham Shui Po was in compliance with the charter. He said that there was a certain mechanism for forming SSPFLOC, which aimed to include different voices from the community; after some Members had expressed their views, many people in the district still opined that festive lighting should be displayed. SSPDO understood the needs of the community and therefore sought resources through other channels to install the festive lighting. He did not agree with Members' comments on law enforcement actions.

163. The Chairman concluded that DC had a clear stance, which was opposing allocation of funds to the lighting activities. Although DC could not forbid SSPDO to carry out the activities, it hoped that SSPDO would monitor the contractor to ensure the workers' occupational safety and health, look after road users' safety, and pay attention to environmental hygiene problems.

(k) Examine how the District Office could strengthen the consultative and monitoring functions of the District Council as the latter is served as a bridge between the Government and the public (SSPDC Paper 13/21)

164. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 13/21.

165. The District Officer responded that as a bridge of communication between Members and different departments, SSPDO provided Members with the "list of information of designated officers providing one-stop service to Members" and updated it regularly so that Members could make enquiries to different departments directly. He then said that affairs in the district were diversified and different departments would decide on their own the way to consult Members; if departments wanted to attend DC meetings, SSPDO would provide assistance. During the fight against the epidemic, SSPDO tried its best to disseminate the latest information to Members to facilitate their provision of information to residents. SSPDO was also willing to listen to Members' views.

166. Mr WONG Kit-long said that SSPDO could not help DC hold meetings and even though Members had held meetings via other means on their own, the meetings were not recognised. He then said that he felt disrespected about departments submitting papers to DC only for notification, instead of consultation. He had suggested strengthening the communication about epidemic-related information before but the situation did not improve and the information Members obtained was the same as that in press releases.

167. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that to strike a balance between confirmed cases' privacy and the public's interest, she hoped that approximate levels of the floors confirmed cases

living on, e.g. high, middle or low floors, could be announced so that OCs and management companies could follow up. She then said for the buildings with confirmed cases, DH announced only their names but not their detailed addresses, which could easily cause confusion with buildings of the same name. She hoped that improvements would be made in this regard.

168. Mr CHUM Tak-shing said that SSPDO provided very limited information on the epidemic, while Members assumed the roles of DH and SSPDO to provide information to the public. He then said that SSPDO frequently evaded taking a coordination role in the district affairs raised by DC. He was worried that Members could not even sit on the District Management Committee in future.

169. The District Officer responded that SSPDO was willing to serve as a bridge of communication between Members and different departments as well as help departments to seek Members' views on different plans. He pointed out that under the existing legal framework, Members could assume the role of serving residents, while SSPDO would also help with Members' work under such framework.

170. The Chairman said that SSPDO could provide more assistance not only during the epidemic, but also on other issues related to people's livelihood. He opined that when handling public enquiries about the epidemic, Members had very little information and was unable to get information at the first instance. He hoped that SSPDO would communicate more with Members and find channels that allow more direct communication with departments for Members. He then asked Mr Jeffrey SIN to introduce the motion in Paper 13/21.

171. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that Members also wanted to help with the Government's anti-epidemic work but information did not flow freely, making it difficult for Members to cooperate with the Government's work in time. If the Government was unable to make reports, it should notify the public of that. He introduced the motion in Paper 13/21, which read as follows:

“HD, OCs, management offices and members of the public do not have the responsibility to make reports to Members. To avoid the awkward situation of every party fighting against the epidemic on their own, this Council moves a motion: ‘Strongly request SSPDO to intervene and request DH to report “presence of new confirmed cases” and “floor levels with confirmed cases” to the Members of the constituencies concerned when making reports to estate offices, OCs or management offices so that various systems in the community can be prepared and ‘fight the virus together’; otherwise, strongly request SSPDO to issue public statements, publish statements in newspapers and gazette statements

to let the public know that Members have never been given any details on confirmed cases.’ ”

172. The Chairman said that the motion was moved by Mr Jeffrey SIN and seconded by Mr WONG Kit-long.

173. The meeting voted on the motion in Paper 13/21 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Ms Eunice CHAU, Ms Zoé CHOW, Mr CHUM Tak-shing,
Mr KONG Kwai-sang, Mr Andy LAO, Mr Joshua LI,
Mr Leos LEE, Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI, Ms Janet NG,
Mr Jeffrey SIN, Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, Mr WAI Woon-nam,
Mr WONG Kit-long, Mr YEUNG Yuk, Mr Ramon YUEN (16)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Ms LAU Pui-yuk (1)

174. The Secretary announced the voting result: 16 Members voted for it, no Member voted against it and 1 Member abstained. The Chairman announced that the motion was carried.

175. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that SSPDO would listen to Members' views and as a bridge of communication between government departments and Members, it should provide any information obtained, be it related to the epidemic or not, to Members as quickly as possible so as to strengthen communication and flow of information.

(1) Revise the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders (SSPDC Paper 14/21)

176. Ms Zoé CHOW introduced Paper 14/21.

177. Mr Ramon YUEN added that he had used the practices adopted by other district councils and the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) as reference and hoped that after the restrictions in the Standing Orders on the number of speeches and duration for each speech of a Member were removed, Members would have the opportunity to pursue their enquiries to government departments; Motion 5 should be “provided that it is in the interest of public health”. He then moved Motion 8 at the meeting, which read “upload dates and times of meetings to DC homepage”.

178. Mr Jeffrey SIN suggested following the practices adopted by some district councils, which were to number response papers of departments using a combination of the number of the discussion paper concerned and an English alphabet and to give each motion a paper number for easy reference.

179. Mr CHUM Tak-shing was worried that with excessive workloads, the Secretariat might not be able to upload the information within specified time; it was difficult to estimate the discussion time needed for each agenda item and therefore it was not desirable to set a time limit and careful consideration was required.

180. Ms LAU Pui-yuk was worried that the Secretariat might not be able to finish uploading the information within specified time as liaising with departments took time. She agreed that uploading audio records was important but hoped to first understand how long after a meeting its audio records would be uploaded currently; LegCo also could not have online meetings due to legal problems and therefore the problems concerned should be solved first.

181. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu opined that DC should be allowed certain flexibility and it might not be desirable to introduce too many restrictions; as issues including the making of laws were involved, LegCo surely needed to be more cautious when considering having online meetings; HAB should handle the matter of DC having online meetings proactively and handle issues related to people's livelihood in a timely manner.

182. Mr Joshua LI suggested amending Motion 1 to "and set an estimated discussion time for each agenda item" to retain flexibility.

183. The Chairman consolidated Members' views: Members had reservations about Motion 1 and opined that individual chairmen should be allowed to handle the matters flexibly according to the circumstances; Members did not object to Motions 2, 3, 4 and 5 in general. He encouraged Members to express their views on Motions 6 and 7.

184. Mr CHUM Tak-shing was worried that even though the Standing Orders, after they were amended, would stipulate that DC could convene online meetings under certain circumstances, representatives of government departments might follow the practice of SSPDO of refusing to participate.

185. Ms Janet NG opined that the Chairman should be allowed to handle the matters flexibly; she agreed with introducing "public hearings" to collect the public's views so as to truly implement the bottom-to-top council mode.

186. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu opined that the circumstances of each discussion were

different and therefore suggested removing the restrictions in Motion 1 on the number of speeches and duration for each speech of a Member to allow more flexibility; whether government departments were willing to cooperate was not an issue that should be considered during the amendment of the Standing Orders; he agreed that it was very important to extensively collect the public's views but opined that if collection of such was required, it could be done by other organisations using DC funds and it was not necessary to incorporate relevant provisions in the Standing Orders.

187. Mr Ramon YUEN opined that including “public hearings” into the Standing Orders allowed DC to have clearer standards when handling matters; he agreed that there should be flexibility over the number of speeches and duration for each speech of a Member in meetings and setting an estimated time could help Members estimate the discussion time required.

188. Mr Jay LI opined that the Government should clarify and solve the technical and legal problems arising from online meetings as soon as possible; he supported introducing “public hearings” and opined that apart from collecting the public's views, “public hearings” could also serve as a platform for professional or civil organisations to reveal their study and investigation results.

189. The District Officer responded that amending the Standing Orders involved matters of principle, including whether the amendments were compatible with DC's functions, whether they were in conflict with the existing provisions in the Standing Orders, whether the Secretariat had enough resources to implement the new suggestions, etc., and SSPDO would study them further, subject to the discussion results.

190. Mr Ramon YUEN hoped that the Government would solve the legal problems arising from online meetings as quickly as possible and Motion 5 already required that online meetings could only be held when it was in the interest of public health.

191. The Chairman suggested that Members vote on the motions they more or less agreed on first and wait until the next meeting to decide on the remaining motions as time might be needed for further consideration.

192. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu agreed with the Chairman's suggestion and opined that it was difficult to decide on the details of some motions right at the meeting, while the Secretariat also needed time to study how to implement the motions or seek legal advice; the Government did not proactively encourage DC to have online meetings and he hoped relevant bureaux/departments would give responses at the next meeting.

193. Mr Ramon YUEN opined that the response given by the District Officer just then

was not specific enough. He was worried that if Members did not take a vote at the meeting, SSPDO might stall the handling and implementation of the amendments concerned. Therefore, he suggested voting on the motions without controversy first.

194. The Chairman suggested handling the motions without controversy at this meeting first and waiting until the next meeting to discuss Motion 1 as Members did not reach a consensus on it yet.

195. The meeting agreed with the Chairman's suggestion.

196. Ms Janet NG enquired how long it would take in general to upload meeting minutes to DC homepage.

197. The Secretary said that it would take 5 days in general.

198. Ms Janet NG moved Amended Motion 2, which was seconded by Mr CHUM Tak-shing, and it read as follows:

“Amend Order 7(3) of the Standing Orders to ‘The Secretary shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings of DC. The minutes shall record the attendance (including arrival and departure times) of Members, matters discussed and decisions taken. The minutes should be uploaded to DC homepage within five working days after confirmation of the minutes by DC except for the closed-door sessions of meetings.’”

199. The meeting voted on Amended Motion 2 by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Ms Eunice CHAU, Ms Zoé CHOW, Mr CHUM Tak-shing,
Mr KONG Kwai-sang, Mr Andy LAO, Ms LAU Pui-yuk,
Mr Leos LEE, Mr Richard LI, Mr Jay LI, Ms Janet NG,
Mr Jeffrey SIN, Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, Mr WAI Woon-nam,
Mr WONG Kit-long, Mr YEUNG Yuk, Mr Ramon YUEN (16)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Mr Joshua LI (1)

200. The Secretary announced the voting result: 16 Members voted for it, no Member voted against it and 1 Member abstained. The Chairman announced that Amended Motion 2 was carried.

201. Ms Janet NG enquired how long it would take in general to upload audio records of meetings to DC homepage.

202. The Secretary said that the Secretariat needed to both edit and upload the audio records and as the length of meetings varied, it was difficult to provide the standard time required for the work.

203. Mr Joshua LI said that the public hoped to listen to audio records of meetings as quickly as possible so he hoped the Secretariat would upload them as quickly as possible.

204. Ms Janet NG moved Amended Motion 3, which was seconded by Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, and it read as follows:

“Amend Order 7(4) of the Standing Orders to ‘The Secretary shall prepare audio records of the proceedings of DC. Live webcasting of meetings shall also be provided if it is technically feasible. The audio and/or video records should be uploaded to DC homepage within five working days except for the closed-door sessions of meetings, in which case, prior consent of DC must be sought.’”

205. The meeting voted on Amended Motion 3 by open ballot.

206. Since no Member present at the meeting voted against it or abstained from voting, the Chairman announced that Amended Motion 3 was carried unanimously.

207. Mr CHUM Tak-shing enquired whether motions or provisional motions would be listed individually in DC homepage in future.

208. Mr Ramon YUEN said that that was exactly the original intent of Motion 4, which read as follows:

“Amend Order 7(5) of the Standing Orders to ‘The Secretary shall prepare an annual attendance register recording details of attendance of Members at regular meetings and special meetings as well as a voting record recording voting decisions of Members in all votes in meetings. The Secretary shall upload the updated register on a quarterly basis, the updated voting record showing voting decisions of members on matters for discussion on a bi-monthly basis, together with the annual attendance registers of previous years to DC homepage for public inspection. Samples of attendance registers are at Appendix VI(a) and Appendix VI(b).’”

209. The meeting voted on Motion 4 by open ballot.

210. Since no Member present at the meeting voted against it or abstained from voting, the Chairman announced that Motion 4 was carried unanimously.

211. The Chairman suggested waiting until the next meeting to handle Motion 5.

212. Since Members present at the meeting had no objection, DC would wait until the next meeting to follow up on the motion above.

213. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu agreed with introducing “public hearings” but opined that Motion 6 would impose the restriction that “public hearings” could only be conducted under the framework of working groups. He suggested amending the motion to make it allow DC to conduct “public hearings”.

214. Mr Ramon YUEN opined that it would be more appropriate to conduct “public hearings” at the level of working groups and if Members had other views, the motion could be excluded from the current discussion first for Members to give further consideration to it.

215. The Chairman suggested waiting until the next meeting to handle Motions 6 and 7 as well as the motion moved by Mr Ramon YUEN at the meeting, which was Motion 8.

216. Since Members present at the meeting had no objection, DC would wait until the next meeting to follow up on the motions above.

217. The Chairman concluded that Amended Motion 2, Amended Motion 3 and Motion 4 were carried, and DC would wait until the next meeting to discuss Motions 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

(e) Promote the implementation of mandatory universal testing and improve various anti-epidemic measures (SSPDC Paper 7/21)

(m) Knowing the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China Examine whether “the obligation of the citizens of the People’s Republic of China” and “safeguarding the honour of the motherland” are applicable to Hong Kong

(n) Concern over the arrangement for COVID-19 vaccination The vaccination rate might increase if people could choose which vaccine to receive by themselves

218. The Chairman said that as agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) were similar in nature, he suggested discussing the two items together.

219. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that as agenda item 2(n) did not belong to district affairs and was not compatible with the functions of DC, it should not be included into the matters for discussion at the meeting. She was dissatisfied with and opposed the suggestion of discussing the two items together and pointed out that doing so would render Members unable to express their views on anti-epidemic measures regarding the other discussion paper which was compatible with the functions of DC, and that might have an impact on the anti-epidemic work in the district.

220. Ms Janet NG said that the content of agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) involved the arrangements of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, the anti-epidemic work, etc. and she did not understand why the Member opposed discussing the items together. She then pointed out that both discussion papers mentioned territory-wide affairs and enquired why they were handled differently.

221. Mr Ramon YUEN supported the Chairman's suggestion and said that he had revised the discussion paper and submitted it the day before in order to follow up on the latest arrangements of the anti-epidemic work. He opined that agenda item 2(n) was to discuss the vaccination arrangements, which were closely related to the anti-epidemic work. Therefore, he did not understand why DC could not handle the paper above.

222. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that as agenda item 2(n) did not comply with DCO, she was strongly dissatisfied with handling agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) together. If the Chairman endorsed the suggestion above, she would walk out in protest.

223. The Chairman, after consolidating Members' views, opined that the content of the papers was similar and ruled that agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) would be discussed together. He then asked Ms LAU Pui-yuk to introduce Paper 7/21.

224. Ms LAU Pui-yuk reiterated that she opposed the ruling above and would walk out in protest.

225. Mr KONG Kwai-sang said that both discussion papers mentioned territory- and district-wide affairs and enquired why they were handled differently.

226. The Chairman agreed that agenda items 2(e) and 2(n) could be discussed in DC meetings.

227. The District Officer responded that an email had been sent to the Chairman before the meeting to notify him that as the Government opined that agenda items 2(m) and 2(n) did not belong to district affairs, discussing the papers concerned would not be compatible with the functions of DC stipulated in DCO. He would walk out with the

representatives of government departments present at the meeting, and the Secretariat would not provide support services. He then said that Mr Ramon YUEN had only submitted the revised discussion paper the day before at 5:51 p.m. and relevant departments needed time to study it and follow up, and therefore it could not be handled at the meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Reports from Committees under the District Council

(a) Report from the District Facilities Committee (SSPDC Paper 15/21)

(b) Report from the Community Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 16/21)

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

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

229. Members did not raise any other business.

Agenda Item 5: Date of next meeting

230. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 16 March 2021 (Tuesday).

231. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:07 p.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
April 2021