

(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date: 19 September 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Vice-Chairman

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

In Attendance

Ms CHEUNG Ying-ying

Mr TAM Chun-yu

In Attendance

Miss LAI Ho-ting, Ally

Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita

Mr CHEUNG Wing-kai

Mr CHAU Chun-yin

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po) (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and

Action by

Mr TSANG Yu-him	Environmental Hygiene Department Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 2 (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAU Chi-hung	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 2 (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Sze-chai, Cindy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 53, Environmental Protection Department
Mr LEE Yiu-ming	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr SUEN Sze-ming	Community Liaison Officer, Police Community Relations Office (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Chun-ho, Clovis	Principal Estate Officer/Land Control/Kowloon West (North), Lands Department

Secretary

Miss YUEN Cheuk-lam, Cherolyn	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the fifth meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

2. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2: Application for Succession of “Dai Pai Dong” Licences (FEHC Paper No. 24/2024)

3. Mr CHEUNG Wing-kai introduced Paper No. 24/2024.
4. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) when the licensee of a “Dai Pai Dong” licence passed away, the successor’s livelihood might be affected due to the cease of operation because of licence renewal issues. Therefore, an enquiry

was made to the Department about the approval process and time required for licence succession; (ii) “Dai Pai Dongs” had local characteristics and were worth preserving and inheriting. The “Dai Pai Dong” “Glorious Cuisine” applying for licence renewal had ground floor shops and would rarely place tables and chairs on the street, so it would not cause too much obstruction to the public. If the “Dai Pai Dong” caused obstruction to the public, the Department should handle it as soon as possible; (iii) suggested that the Department could handle licence renewal applications at its discretion and allow relatives of the licensees to operate the family business on behalf of the licensees in order to inherit the culture of the “Dai Pai Dong”; (iv) enquired about reference cases available and the factors considered by the Department in approving such licence renewal applications; (v) some residents might be concerned about the impact of “Dai Pai Dongs” on environmental hygiene, and the Department was suggested that it might impose additional licensing conditions when renewing licences to regulate the business scope and operating hours of the “Dai Pai Dongs”; (vi) relevant departments had received complaints about “Glorious Cuisine” and it was enquired whether the Department had discussed with the applicant additional licensing conditions for the licence renewal of “Glorious Cuisine” in response to residents’ demands; and (vii) enquired about the approval progress of the other three similar applications.

5. Mr CHEUNG Wing-kai gave a consolidated response: (i) for the application for succession of a hawker licence submitted by a person other than the spouse of a deceased licensee, the Department would require the applicant to submit identity documents to verify his relationship with the deceased licensee. After consulting with relevant departments such as the Drainage Services Department, Fire Services Department, and Environmental Protection Department, the Department would consult the Committee on a case by case basis. If the Committee supported the application for license succession and the “Dai Pai Dong” would operate at the original site, the Department would impose additional licensing conditions upon the applicant; (ii) to improve the environmental hygiene of “Dai Pai Dongs”, reduce the risk of fire,

and minimise the impact on nearby residential areas, the Department would impose additional licensing conditions when processing these applications, such as regulating the business scope and operating hours of the “Dai Pai Dongs”. After the issuance of the licences, the Department would continue to send personnel to inspect the relevant “Dai Pai Dongs” to ensure that their operating conditions and environmental hygiene met the requirements; and (iii) the Department was consulting relevant departments on the remaining applications. After the relevant consultation procedures were completed, the Department would timely consult the Committee for individual applications.

6. Mr TSANG Yu-him added that the Department was required to consult with relevant departments on all applications. When there were engineering and technical issues involved, it might take time for the relevant departments to respond. In addition, the location and operating conditions of each “Dai Pai Dong” were different, so the time required for approval of applications depended on individual circumstances and could not be generalised.

7. The Chairman concluded that the Committee had noted the Department’s report and supported the Department in continuing to follow up on application for succession of licence. “Dai Pai Dongs” were a characteristic of Sham Shui Po, and the Committee hoped that relevant departments could strike a balance between environmental hygiene and conservation, strengthen their response to citizens’ demands for environmental hygiene, and actively communicate with the licensees to assist in their operations. Meanwhile, the Committee also hoped that the Department could accelerate the processing of the remaining application for succession of licence to avoid the closure of “Dai Pai Dongs” due to licence succession issues.

Item 3: Concern about Community Hygiene, Mosquito Control Work to be Stepped Up
(FEHC Paper No. 25/2024)

8. A member introduced Paper No. 25/2024.
9. Mr CHEUNG Wing-kai introduced Response Paper No. 25a/2024.
10. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) water accumulated easily during the rainy season, making it difficult to prevent mosquito breeding. In addition, some mosquito-borne diseases were introduced from other places. Therefore, it was suggested that the Department provide vaccines for people returning to Hong Kong from high-risk areas and workers engaging in long-term outdoor work to get vaccinated; (ii) enquired about the inter-departmental joint anti-mosquito operations conducted by the Department in the past six months, and whether they had been carried out in areas where *Aedes albopictus* frequently appeared, and suggested that the Department review the effectiveness of the operations and increase the frequency of operations; (iii) suggested the Department to exchange opinions with relevant departments on mosquito prevention in places such as Mission Hill where members of the public often participated in activities, and remind members of the public to take mosquito prevention measures; (iv) the mosquito infestation in public housing estates was relatively serious. It was suggested that the Department strengthen communication with the estate offices and relevant management companies, and monitor their anti-mosquito work; (v) suggested that the Department strengthen mosquito control at the boundaries of management areas such as parks and bus stops; (vi) enquired about the factors and conditions considered by the Department in evaluating the installation of gravidtraps, and suggested that the Department install gravidtraps in the vicinity of Hoi Lai Estate; (vii) enquired about the charts on the trend of Gravidtrap Indices this year, as well as strategies and experiences to lower the indices, and suggested using baits to kill mosquitoes; and (viii) enquired whether there was currently a Rapid Alert System for the indices for *Aedes albopictus* to track the location

of appearance of *Aedes albopictus*.

11. Mr CHAU Chun-yin gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) the Department had no plan to arrange for members of the public to get vaccinated against mosquito-borne diseases; (ii) the indices for *Aedes albopictus* were divided into Gravidtrap Index and Density Index. When the indices for *Aedes albopictus* reached Level III, various departments would launch joint actions to carry out large-scale anti-mosquito work in venues under their respective purview. The monthly indices for *Aedes albopictus* in Sham Shui Po District this year were below Level III, so no special action was needed; (iii) in response to the mosquito infestation in Mission Hill and in the vicinity of its slopes, the Department would conduct fogging operations to eradicate adult mosquitoes, but this method was only applicable to grass and slopes; (iv) the Department and relevant government departments jointly carried out mosquito prevention work, and held joint meetings with relevant departments and organisations every month. Each department would carry out anti-mosquito work such as removing stagnant water within areas under its purview, and the Department would also inspect the venues under its purview and provide professional advice and technical guidance on the department's anti-mosquito work; (v) the 170 gravidtraps in the district were all installed and managed by the Pest Control Advisory Section, and the Sham Shui Po District Environmental Hygiene Office would relay the views to the Advisory Section; and (vi) in addition to regular mosquito control, the Department would conduct a three-phase Anti-mosquito Campaign every year, hoping for cooperation from all sectors to strengthen the prevention and control of mosquito infestations. The Department had uploaded the relevant indices for *Aedes albopictus* on the internet for public reference. Generally speaking, the indices for *Aedes albopictus* in Hong Kong would show an upward trend from April to May every year and gradually decrease from July to August.

12. The Chairman concluded that the prevention and control of mosquito infestations required perseverance. It was hoped that relevant departments would increase inter-departmental anti-mosquito actions in areas with high Gravidtrap Indices

and take the initiative to strengthen mosquito control on hillsides and places frequently visited by the public, in order to prevent mosquito infestations and lower the gravidtrap indices. If members discovered mosquito breeding black spots, they would notify the relevant departments as soon as possible. It was also hoped that the relevant departments could cooperate with the Committee to strengthen publicity and education in the district.

Item 4: Concern about the Vacant Stalls and Facility Environment in Pei Ho Street Market (FEHC Paper No. 26/2024)

13. A member introduced Paper No. 26/2024.

14. Mr CHEUNG Wing-kai introduced Response Paper No. 26a/2024.

15. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the reasons for the frozen stalls in Pei Ho Street Market and whether the freeze would be lifted in the future for open auction; also enquired about the current status of the 12 vacant stalls that were not put up for open auction; (ii) suggested that the Department should install dehumidification systems and axial fans in Pei Ho Street Market to ensure air circulation in the market, as members of the public might lose interest in shopping at the market due to insufficient ventilation, hot and humid environment, and slippery floors in the market. Excessive lighting might also cause indoor stuffiness. It was suggested that the Department replace or adjust the lighting system, such as adjusting the height of the lights; (iii) suggested that the Department strengthen the promotion of integrity among merchants and regulate the sales practices of tenants to protect consumers; (iv) some tenants in the market were not in business, enquired whether the Department had any rules regulating the operating hours and uses of tenants' stalls; (v) suggested that the Department should refer to the Hoi Lai Estate Market and introduce other categories of stalls to make the market more diversified and attract members of the public to visit; suggested that the Department should introduce halal food and meat

stalls to meet the needs of Muslims and reduce competition among similar stalls; (vi) suggested that the Department should rent out stalls in the form of temporary leases, or simplify the process of determining the rent for the market and adjust the rent to attract tenants; (vii) enquired about the enforcement and regulatory work of the Department regarding the obstruction of market passages by goods of the stalls; and (viii) although improving the facilities of the markets in the district could attract the public, markets could hardly compete with shopping malls and supermarkets. It was suggested that the Department implement a renovation and revitalisation plan for the markets and strengthen promotion to increase the appeal of the markets to the public and tenants.

16. Mr LAU Chi-hung gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) the frozen stalls in Pei Ho Street Market were one live poultry stall, one newspaper stall, and one fish stall. Under the current arrangement, live poultry and newspaper stalls would no longer be put up for open auction, while the relevant fish stall was temporarily not available for open auction due to stall structure issues. Some of the remaining 20 vacant stalls would be put up for open auction on 23 September 2024. The Department would release the remaining vacant stalls for open auction in due course; (ii) at present, if tenants wished to change the category of goods sold during the term of tenancy, they could apply to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”). Upon receipt of individual applications, FEHD would submit suggestions for discussion at individual Market Management Consultative Committee meetings. After obtaining the committee’s consent, the applications would be considered for approval. The Department currently had no plans to change the categories of vacant stalls in Pei Ho Street Market. The Department noted the opinions of Members and, if conditions permitted, would consider proposing to the relevant Market Management Consultative Committee to change the categories of the stalls; (iii) after replacing the ventilation system units in March of this year, some tenants reported that the market was relatively hot in summer and suggested cleaning the ventilation ducts. The Department had reported the opinion to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, hoping to carry out ventilation duct cleaning works within this year; (iv)

the Department and the Architectural Services Department (“ASD”) would install oscillating fans or ventilation fans to improve ventilation, taking into account environmental factors and load-bearing capacity. The Department had replaced the lighting system at the beginning of the year, and the current lighting fixtures had higher brightness and lower power consumption, resulting in a decrease in equipment temperature. The Department would consider adjusting the number of lights as needed, without affecting lighting, to further improve the situation. The function of a dehumidifier was to extract moisture from the air, and it had little effect on keeping the floor dry. The Department would discuss with the contractor about installing blowers to keep the floor dry; (v) generally speaking, if a tenant was found to have placed goods within the area of his stall causing minor obstruction, the Department would first give a verbal warning to the relevant tenant. If the relevant goods seriously obstructed the passage or barrier-free facilities, hindered the normal use of public facilities, or affected fire safety, the Department would consider prosecuting the tenant; (vi) according to the terms of the market tenancy agreement, tenants should not cease or suspend the operation of their stalls for seven days or more in any calendar month unless with the written consent from the Government. If a market stall tenant violated the relevant tenancy term and failed to rectify the situation after being warned, FEHD would take action to ban the violation of the tenancy and consider terminating the lease; (vii) the Department currently had no plans to lease the vacant stalls in Pei Ho Street Market on temporary leases; (viii) the tenancy terms of the market only required tenants to sell the goods prescribed in the tenancy. Tenants could decide whether to sell halal or organic food according to market demand; and (ix) the Department had communicated with the contractor regarding the promotion of the market and would consider increasing the use of the mascot “Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak” to promote the market in the future.

17. The Chairman concluded that tenants of public markets in the district had to face competition from retailers in the community, so improving the operation mode and environment of public markets was particularly important. The Committee hoped that the Department would maintain an open attitude towards the use of vacant stalls,

communicate more with market stakeholders and Members, and collect their opinions to revitalise markets and enhance their competitiveness. The Committee also noted the improvement works of market facilities carried out by the Department and hoped that the Department could strengthen communication with relevant departments such as ASD to attract the public through improving the environment of markets. Meanwhile, the Committee suggested that the Department and its contractor strengthen publicity during festivals to attract members of the public to consume in markets.

Item 5: Any Other Business

18. Members did not raise any other business.

Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

19. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 21 November 2024 (Thursday).

20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Council
November 2024