

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Housing, Planning and Social Welfare Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date : 12 June 2025 (Thursday)

Time : 9:30 a.m.

Venue : Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr LAM Ka-fai, Aaron, BBS, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr LEUNG Ping-kin

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Ms CHUNG Ching-may, MH

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

Co-opted Member

Mr KWOK Chi-wah, Andrew

In Attendance

Miss CHAN Lok-tung, Agnes	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1
Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita	Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr KWONG Ka-kuen	Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr SHIU Kwok-wai, Patrick	Building Surveyor/D2-2, Buildings Department
Mr CHAN Wai-wa	Senior Housing Manager/KWS1, Housing Department
Ms LO Yuen-fun	Senior Housing Manager/KWS2, Housing Department
Miss CHOW Mei-yee	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po)2, Social Welfare Department
Mr LAW Ho-hei, Matthew	Senior Town Planner /Sham Shui Po, Planning Department
Mr SIU Kin-keung	Engineer/Kowloon (Distribution 2), Water Supplies Department
Mr LI Yick-chun	Engineer/Kowloon 7, Drainage Services Department

Secretary

Miss CHUNG Keng-chin, Vivian	Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Sham Shui Po District Office
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 9th meeting of the Housing, Planning and Social Welfare Committee (“HPSWC”) of the 7th term of the Sham Shui Po District Council.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Housing, Planning and Social Welfare Committee

2. Members confirmed the above minutes.

Item 2: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Appropriate Support to Elderly Persons and Carers in Need (HPSWC Paper No. 6/2025)

3. A member presented Paper No. 6/2025.
4. Miss CHOW Mei-yee presented Response Paper No. 6a/2025.
5. Mr CHAN Wai-wa presented Response Paper No. 6b/2025.
6. Members made declarations as follows: Mr CHAN Wai-ming was the Vice-captain of the Un Chau Care Team; Mr Raymond LAM was the Vice-captain of the Ha Pak Tin Care Team; Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai was the Vice-captain of the Fortune Care Team; Mr CHAN Lung-kit was the Vice-captain of the Nam Cheong East Care Team; Mr Andrew KWOK was the Vice-captain of the Lok Hong Care Team; Ms CHUM Pik-wa was the Vice-captain of the Pik Wui Care Team; Mr CHAN Kwok-wai was the Captain of the Shek Kip Mei Care Team; and Ms CHEN Lihong was the member of the Nam Shan, Tai Hang Tung & Tai Hang Sai Care Team.
7. The Chairman took note of the declarations of interests made by Members.
8. Members raised the following: (i) suggested that the Housing Department (“HD”) should streamline the application procedures and shorten the processing time for visit services in public rental housing (“PRH”) estates, so that the Care Teams could more effectively serve the needy elderly and their carers; (ii) hoped that the HD would assist in providing flat information on the premise of respecting residents’ privacy, so that the Care Teams could more effectively identify service targets and provide appropriate assistance in a more targeted way, especially for the hidden elders and their carers who would not actively seek help; (iii) suggested that the HD should strengthen communication with the Care Teams and conduct joint visits, so that the Care Teams

could identify the hidden elders in the district, especially those living in old PRH estates; (iv) hoped that the District Office, the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and the HD would collaborate and communicate with each other, so that the Care Teams could more smoothly provide support for the elderly and their carers in PRH estates; (v) suggested that the Department should reserve space for the Care Teams’ publicity banner; (vi) enquired when the feasibility study on the future use of the Mutual Aid Committee (“MAC”) Offices would be completed and whether the vacant MAC Offices could be leased to the Care Teams on a short-term basis; and (vii) suggested that the HD should install sensors outside the flats with elderly residents. The system would send notifications when no human activity was detected within a specified period, so that the HD and the Care Teams could provide timely assistance to the elderly.

9. Mr CHAN Wai-wa responded as follows: (i) the Department fully supported the visit services of the Care Teams. The Care Teams did not need to make separate applications to the Department if they had contacted the households for visits or services; (ii) the Department would actively contact the households (including the elderly and their carers) if support needs were identified, and would refer the cases to the SWD or the Care Teams for prompt follow-up and appropriate assistance upon households’ consent and authorisation; (iii) the Department generally advised the non-governmental organisations or the Care Teams to put invitation letters with reply slips into the letterboxes of the flats with elderly residents before visit activities. Visits could be proceeded if the elderly agreed to receive services; and (iv) the recovered MAC Offices would be converted as residential units, used for internal estate purposes, leased to the District Services & Community Care Teams, or used as Recycling Stores, etc.

10. Ms LO Yuen-fun supplemented as follows: it was suggested that the Care Teams should add an option on the reply slips for continuous visit services, avoiding the need to apply to the HD for each visit.

11. Mr CHAN Wai-wa supplemented as follows: (i) the Department was proactively exploring the use of smart technology. For example, it was piloting the Internet of Things system for Door Sensor Installation for Elderly Households in Cheung Lok Estate. Sensors would be installed behind the doors of the flats of volunteered elderly participants, allowing their relatives and friends to be aware of their entry and exit activities. If the door remained unopened beyond a pre-set time limit, the system would send a mobile text message to notify the designated contacts, enabling timely care from relatives and friends. Consideration would be given to gradually extending the system to other PRH estates following an effectiveness review; and (ii) the Department had no current plan to install smart technology equipment for fall detection, and encouraged social welfare organisations and the Care Teams to consider

committing relevant resources.

12. Members raised the following: (i) the current application procedures for visits were too cumbersome, making it difficult for the Care Teams to identify the elderly in need of assistance; (ii) suggested that the HD should take the lead in putting invitation letters with reply slips into the letterboxes of target flats, jointly collect flat data, and conduct joint visits with the Care Teams, while the cases in need of assistance would be followed up by the Care Teams; (iii) suggested opening up more HD venues, such as basketball courts, football fields and badminton courts, for the Care Teams to organise activities; (iv) while the Department's concern about the resident privacy was understood, it was emphasised that the above suggestion aimed at more effectively assisting the needy elderly and their carers; (v) elderly with genuine need but difficulties in filling in the reply slips might be missed if adopting the HD's suggestion of using invitation letters with reply slips; (vi) enquired whether the HD could provide basic information without involving personal data, such as the flat numbers of households, so that the Care Teams could provide support services in a more targeted way; (vii) by taking the grassroots governance in the Mainland as an example, pointed out that data interoperability among government departments could enhance service efficiency; (viii) suggested allowing the Care Teams to proactively visit every household. Households reluctant to have visitors could indicate rejection on the reply slips, while those not explicitly rejecting the visits would be deemed to accept the services; and (ix) suggested that the HD should look at how other government departments worked with their support teams through their collaboration models and information interoperability mechanisms, and explore ways to enhance collaboration with the Care Teams for greater effectiveness in supporting the elderly and their carers.

13. Mr CHAN Wai-wa responded as follows: (i) according to the established procedures, the Department must obtain consent from the parties concerned before referring any cases, and government departments were no exception; and (ii) suggested that the Care Teams should collect opinions from households through questionnaires or during events and at on-street booths, while assisting with completing questionnaires and obtaining consent for visit services.

14. Members raised the following: (i) suggested that the HD should explore whether households not explicitly rejecting the Care Team visits could be regarded as having consented to the services, ensuring that those who did not actively seek help (such as the elderly or disadvantaged groups) would not miss the opportunity to receive the services; (ii) hoped that the HD would understand and explore more effective support programmes for hidden elders and those elderly with difficulties in filling in the reply slips and not actively seek help; and (iii) stated that the Care Teams formed an integral part of the Government's district governance system, and looked forward to greater

service effectiveness through multi-party collaboration.

15. Mr CHAN Wai-wa responded as follows: (i) households could not be regarded as having consented to the Care Team services simply because they did not reply; and (ii) the Department had basic information on elderly singletons and all elderly households, but no information on hidden elder households.

16. The Chairman concluded as follows: (i) members hoped that government departments and the Care Teams would strengthen collaboration to provide more comprehensive services, benefiting more people; and (ii) members understood that the HD provided flat information and referral services in line with established policies and procedures, but hoped that it would consider more flexible arrangements and stronger collaboration with the Care Teams to more effectively identify service targets in need of support.

Item 3: Information on Planning Applications of Sham Shui Po District (HPSWC Paper No. 7/2025)

17. Mr Matthew LAW presented Paper No. 7/2025.

18. Members noted the report.

Item 4: Any Other Business

19. Mr CHAN Wai-wa thanked Members for attending the tea gathering on 9 May and providing valuable opinions to the HD, and looked forward to organising similar events again to strengthen communication.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 5 August 2025 (Tuesday).

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:39 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
June 2025