

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 3rd Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2013 Session)**

The 3rd meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2013 session) was held on 23 May 2013. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings Held on 14 and 21 March 2013 Respectively

2. Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael proposed to amend paragraph 12(b) of the minutes for 21 March 2013.
3. The Council confirmed the minutes for 14 March 2013 and the amended minutes for 21 March 2013 unanimously.

Visit of Commissioner of Police (C of P)

4. C of P briefed members on the work of the Hong Kong Police Force.
5. Replies of C of P to members' questions and proposals were as follows:
 - (a) Regarding the concern over individual law and order issues in Sha Tin, the Sha Tin police force would take follow-up action and coordinate with relevant government departments.
 - (b) Regarding criticisms against the way of handling procession and demonstration, C of P said that enforcement action would only be taken against unlawful behaviour for the sake of public order and public safety.
 - (c) All enforcement actions were taken according to the law without regard to the status or political ideologies of the persons concerned.
 - (d) Regarding criticisms against a policeman having bodily contact with a female demonstrator, no judgment could be made before investigation was completed. There were strict guidelines on contact with the opposite gender; however, in the face of unexpected, urgent or chaotic situations, it might be difficult to adhere to these guidelines strictly.
 - (e) Regarding the "Occupy Central" movement, the police had no comments from a political standpoint and would treat it as a public procession. C of P urged participants to act in a lawful, peaceful and orderly manner. Under the current mechanism, a "letter of no objection" attached with guidance notes on procession would be issued to the procession organiser.

- (f) Regarding the concern over mental stress among frontline policemen, C of P hoped that the public and the police would show understanding for each other so as to avoid conflicts.

6. Mr CHONG Yiu-kan, Sherman moved a provisional motion, which was seconded by Mr TANG Wing-cheong. Mr CHONG and Mr TANG accepted members' recommendation on amendment of wording. The Council unanimously passed the provisional motion as follows:

“The STDC is against the planning and promotion of the civil disobedience movement called ‘Occupy Central’ under any pretext, and strongly reprimands the initiator and organiser of this movement for achieving certain political ends by tramping on the rule of law, a core value greatly treasured by Hong Kong people, and disrupting normal social order as well as destroying the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. The STDC calls on the police to strictly observe their duties, and spare no effort in maintaining social peace and protecting the rightful interests of Hong Kong and Sha Tin residents.”

Visit of Director of Fire Services (D of FS)

7. D of FS briefed members on the work of the Fire Services Department (FSD).
8. Replies of D of FS to members' questions and proposals were as follows:
- (a) Fire appliances and ambulances inevitably made noise while turning out for work, and various measures had been taken to minimise the nuisance caused to residents in the vicinity of fire stations and ambulance depots. A fire appliance or ambulance running on the road might not follow the traffic lights or traffic signs under necessary circumstances; in that case, the alarm siren and flashlight had to be switched on according to the law to ensure the safety of other road users.
 - (b) The FSD had taken joint action with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Housing Department against market stalls where the sprinkler was blocked by goods.
 - (c) Cases of industrial buildings being illegally used for non-industrial purposes would be referred to the Buildings Department and Lands Department. If partitioned flats were found, the FSD would see whether fire safety was compromised, and refer the case to the Buildings Department for inspection from an engineering perspective.

- (d) In recent years, the FSD had been launching widespread publicity on proper use of the emergency ambulance service. According to the record, cases with no apparent need for emergency ambulance service had been declining.
- (e) The FSD rescued animals from a humanitarian standpoint.
- (f) Regarding the case of Ha Wo Che Village, as the ground valve would not be switched on until the standpipe was connected, water might not be discharged from the fire hydrant immediately. The purpose of laying the pipe at the flyover was to provide an additional source of water in case the fire went out of control. If additional standpipes and fire hydrants were found to be necessary in the squatter areas, the FSD would contact the Water Supplies Department.
- (g) The fire figures of various districts could be provided at the next meeting of the Sha Tin District Fire Safety Committee.
- (h) Fire hazards in villages without vehicular access could be reduced by stepping up fire safety education and publicity via Fire Safety Committees or Fire Safety Ambassadors of various districts.
- (i) Tai Wai was an old district where road expansion could not be easily achieved. To avoid hindrance in fire rescue, double yellow lines were marked on some of the vehicle access roads, and some access roads of private housing estates were designated as emergency vehicular access.
- (j) About 150 old buildings in Sha Tin fell within the scope of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance. The Buildings Department was responsible for inspection of fire-resisting construction, whereas the FSD was responsible for inspection of fire equipment. If enhancement of fire safety level was hampered by structural and space constraints, the FSD would adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in enforcing the law.
- (k) It normally took three to five years to procure and replace the firemen's accoutrements. The average usable life of an ambulance was seven years, and the average age of ambulances in Sha Tin was less than two years. Cases of ambulance breakdown had been decreasing in recent years, with only three cases recorded in Sha Tin last year.
- (l) An inter-departmental working group under the leadership of Chief Secretary for Administration was taking follow-up action on the fire at Fa Yuen Street.

- (m) Shopping malls managed by The Link Real Estate Investment Trust ("The Link REIT") fell within the scope of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance; therefore, The Link REIT had to alter the shopping mall layout according to statutory requirements.
- (n) The FSD Volunteer Team also provided post-fire services for low-income persons depending on individual circumstances.
- (o) In case of fire, the most effective response was to switch on the fire alarm. The FSD actively promoted the ways to cope with a fire, and would launch fire prevention publicity at locations where a fire had just occurred.
- (p) As the Ma On Shan Ambulance Depot was also the ambulance service training school, it might be making relatively frequent noise. This problem was expected to be ameliorated after the training facilities were moved to the new Fire Services Training School in Tseung Kwan O in 2015.
- (q) It was in violation of the Fire Services Ordinance to lock up the roof that was used as the escape route.
- (r) When the automatic defibrillator was in operation, no one was allowed to touch the casualty. Therefore, the ambulanceman would not use the automatic defibrillator while carrying the casualty into the ambulance. The foremost task of the ambulanceman was to stabilise the casualty's condition, and so the ambulance might stay on the scene for a while. The FSD had been launching the Heart Saver Scheme to provide training on the automatic defibrillator for the public.
- (s) If fallen trees did not cause damage to lives, property or buildings, the FSD would refer the case to the departments concerned.
- (t) If the ambulance was unable to reach the scene because of an accident or breakdown, the FSD would immediately deploy another ambulance.
- (u) The FSD had been using state-of-the-art fire services equipment, and the accoutrements of firemen paralleled other advanced countries.
- (v) The Security Bureau had a contingency plan for nuclear power incidents. The main role of the FSD was to help monitor the radioactive content in the air, help people remove radioactive materials from their bodies, and take care of casualties.

- (w) Copies of the fire investigation report on explosion at the Ying Choi Seafood Restaurant were available from the Fire Services Headquarters. The false ceiling installed above the sprinkler system after the incident was allowed as long as it was up to standard.
- (x) Regarding the concern over accumulation of miscellaneous objects in market stalls, the role of the FSD was to ensure that the emergency exit of the market was not obstructed.

STDC Matters

Signature Projects Scheme

9. The Chairman said that the two general directions of the Signature Projects Scheme, viz. “Revitalisation of Shing Mun River – Sha Tin Town Centre Section” and “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah and Reprovision of Tai Wai Playground”, were endorsed at the meeting of 21 March 2013. The Sha Tin District Office (STDO) and relevant organisations would take follow-up action.

10. The STDO’s proposals regarding partnership, donation/sponsorship and public participation were as follows:

- (a) making the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) a collaboration partner;
- (b) if the STDC accepted in principle the donation of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), the STDO would discuss the details with the HKJCCT and follow up with the government departments concerned; and
- (c) inviting representatives from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Architects and Chinese University of Hong Kong to act as honorary consultants at the present stage.

11. District Officer (Sha Tin) said that if the CEDD was selected as a collaboration partner, preliminary studies would be jointly launched by the STDO and CEDD, followed by more detailed feasibility studies in due course.

12. The Council unanimously endorsed the three proposals above, and noted other proposals on appointment of consultants and public participation.

Updated Member Lists of the STDC Committees

13. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Reports of the STDC Committees

14. The Council noted the reports of the District Facilities Management Committee, the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee, the Education and Welfare Committee, the Development and Housing Committee, the Traffic and Transport Committee, the Health and Environment Committee, and the Finance and General Affairs Committee.

2012/2013 STDC Account Statement

Financial Account of the STDC as at 14 May 2013

15. The Council noted the above two papers.

Report of the District Management Committee

16. Regarding the proposed location of the cycling parking space near La Costa, representative of the Transport Department would follow up with Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael after the meeting.

Member Lists of 2013-2014 Sha Tin District Fire Safety Committee, 2013-2014 Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee, 2013-2014 Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin, and 2013-2015 Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee

17. In response to the concern over the criteria of appointing committee members, District Officer (Sha Tin) said that the major principle was to select people on their merits. For the sake of perpetuity of the work of various committees, preservation and injection of new blood would also be factors to be considered. In appointing the members of the Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee, political background and donation would not be taken into account. To cope with the needs of various committees, people from different sectors of society would be considered. She informed members that the STDO would set up a committee to promote culture and art. She welcomed interested members to join the new committee.

18. Regarding the proposal of appointing younger people to sit on the Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee, District Officer (Sha Tin) said that there might not be a uniform age range of young people. Nevertheless, many new members were appointed to sit on the current Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee. She added that it was necessary for the STDO committees to have a certain proportion of district councillors because they served as a bridge of communication between the public and the government.

STDC to Serve as Supporter of Events

19. The Council unanimously endorsed the acceptance of invitation to be supporter of the following three events:

- (a) "Quit to Win" Smoke-free Community Campaign organised by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health;
- (b) "Let's Save Now for a Better Future" energy saving competition organised by the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited; and
- (c) New World Cycling Charity Championship to be held on 10 November 2013, which was jointly organised by the Cyclone Cycling Limited and Hong Kong Cycling Association.

HSBC Community Partnership Programme

20. The Home Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department and Hong Kong Council of Social Service were strategic partners of the HSBC Community Partnership Programme. The Chairman urged members to encourage appropriate organisations to participate in this programme.

Next Meeting

21. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 25 July 2013.