

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting of
the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee on 16 June 2020

Date : 16 June 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 3:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson (Chairman)	DC Member	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang (Vice-Chairman)	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying MH	DC Chairman	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	3:44 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	”	3:30 pm	5:10 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	”	4:01 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	4:13 pm	5:31 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	”	3:43 pm	5:30 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	”	3:43 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	”	4:16 pm	5:31 pm
Mr SHEK William	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	4:50 pm	5:31 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	”	4:01 pm	5:25 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	3:47 pm	4:30 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr WONG Ho-fung	”	3:46 pm	5:31 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	”	3:56 pm	5:02 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	3:43 pm	5:31 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	3:30 pm	5:31 pm
Ms WONG Hei-lam (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy
 Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia
 Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

Title

Chief Liaison Officer, Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Liaison Officer (West), Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office

Absent

Ms LUK Tsz-tung
 Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

Title

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)
 ” ”

Action

The Chairman informed all attendees that some members of the public, being present as observers, were taking photographs as well as making video and audio recordings. He welcomed all Members as well as representatives of government departments and organisations to the meeting. As the meeting was only about funding for local organisations, he had only invited representatives from the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) to attend. He said that the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) conference room would be cleaned at 6 pm today and air conditioning was reserved until 8 pm.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the applications for leave of absence in writing had been received from the following Members:

Ms LUK Tsz-tung
 Mr MOK Kam-kwai

Official Commitment
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3. Members unanimously approved the applications for leave of absence submitted by the Members above.

Funding Application

Funding Applications from Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 1 (Cultural Affairs) of 2020/2021
 (Paper No. CSCD 31/2020)

4. The Chairman said that the Working Group on Screening of Funding Application (Ad Hoc) (Working Group) had recommended a total funding of \$2,690,615 for local organisations to organise activities under Expenditure Head 1. He said that the STDO had some reservations about the criteria set by the Working Group in the approval of funds. It believed that the criteria set by the Working Group in the processing of funding applications from local organisations were unfair. Therefore, it suggested that the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee (CSCDC) request the Working Group to re-examine funding applications from local organisations under various Expenditure Heads under the CSCDC in accordance with the “Procedures and Rules of Application for Sha Tin District Council Funds” (the Funding Rules). The details could be found in the discussion items in the paper. He invited Members to discuss the proposed allocation of funds by the above-mentioned local organisations under Expenditure Head 1 (Cultural Affairs) of the CSCDC, and asked Mr SHEK William, convenor of the Working Group, to provide additional information.

5. Mr SHEK William said that at the meeting of the Working Group, members carefully reviewed the funding applications, and considered the background of the organisations and whether

they had supported candidates to run in election, etc. He said that members of the Working Group voted that no funds would be allocated to political organisations after full discussion.

6. The Chairman said that members could refer to the paper in the report of the Working Group for their discussions at the meeting.

7. Mr Felix CHOW said that DC funding was the use of public funds. He agreed that public funds should not be used for propaganda for political organisations. He believed that the criteria for funding should be fair and impartial, and asked members of the Working Group about the definition of political connection. He said that some local organisations would invite DC Members to serve as their directors or members. He believed that if funding would be rejected for this reason alone, many local organisations would not be able to obtain funding.

8. Mr SHEK William said that the Working Group would consider the person in charge and the authorised person of the activity shown in the application form. If the person concerned was the core figure of a political party, the organisation would be defined as a political organisation.

9. Mr Michael YUNG said that the funding papers of different Expenditure Heads used similar wording. He did not have much comment on the funding proposal of the Working Group but pointed out that Mr CHING Cheung-ying was a director of the Sha Tin Arts Association (STAA) as shown in the paper. He believed that the members should vet the funding according to the same criteria, and the relevant criteria should be resolved at the full council meeting of the STDC before the Working Group vetted funding applications. He believed that when applying for DC funding, local organisations were aware of the provisions of the Funding Rules. If the Working Group changed the criteria for vetting of funding during the process, he was worried that some local organisations would be dissatisfied and lodge complaints. He believed that the STDC should have an explanation to explain why they did not approve funding to certain local organisations without violating the Funding Rules. For example, if some organisations applied for funds from the same person in charge, they could be regarded as the same organisation. He asked how the criteria outside the Funding Rules could be rationalised.

10. Mr Raymond LI said that some reasons for not allocating funds to certain organisations were discussed at the meeting of the Working Group. For example, the organisation had supported candidates to run in an election, or the organisation had made high-profile political statements in the newspapers. He expressed the hope to reject some organisations not supported by Hong Kong people.

11. Mr CHING Cheung-ying pointed out that he had expressed his disagreement with the practice of vetoing organisations associated with political groups at the meeting of the Working Group. He said that according to the previous criteria for the STDC to define political groups, one was that the group had sent candidates to participate in the election on behalf of the group, and the other was that the group had supported the candidates in the name of the group during the election. He said that if organisations fell into these two categories, they would not be able to receive funding from the STDC. He also pointed out that if some members of a local organisation were active in political parties in the past, but the group had not done any of the two things above, the group could still receive funding from the STDC. He believed that the STDC should have clear criteria and a yardstick to let the local organisations know, and such criteria should also be followed closely in the internal vetting of funding. He said that when the STDC considered funding applications of local organisations in the past, they mainly considered the feasibility of the activities and the rationality of the funding applications in the vetting procedure, rather than who manipulated the organisations.

He believed that the STDC should have clear funding criteria, which should be explained to the public, rather than relying on personal preferences or judgements to process funding applications.

12. Ms NG Ting-lam said that she had some reservations about the funding decision of the Working Group. She believed that it was unfair and that it should not target and should not refuse to fund certain local organisations. She asked what the definition of association with a political organisation was. If funding were not approved because of the political association of its members, many local organisations would not be granted funding. She believed that the beneficiaries of these cultural and artistic activities were the public. Therefore, whether or not to allocate funds to these local organisations should not be based on sanctionary or targeted decisions.

13. Mr Felix CHOW asked whether the groups considered to be supporting candidates had to support them in writing, or whether the activities organised by these groups involved candidates. He reminded Members that they had to clearly define what it meant by supporting candidates to run in an election.

14. The Chairman said that the purpose of this special meeting was to approve the funding to some organisations which had been proposed to receive funding as soon as possible. If the funding was approved, he hoped that the Secretariat could process the relevant procedures as soon as possible so that resources could be allocated to local organisations as soon as possible. Some local organisations were expected to hold activities in July. He pointed out that Members could endorse the funding proposed at present by the Working Group or review the relevant funding applications under certain conditions. He said that he would respect Members' decisions. He also pointed out that the definition of a local organisation as a political organisation in the past was based on whether the organisation sent candidates to run in an election or whether the organisation supported candidates to run in an election in the name of the organisation. He said that owners' corporations (OCs) or Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) could have taken measures to support candidates, but these organisations would rotate, so he hoped to discuss the relevant criteria with members.

15. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that according to his experience, he had never seen MACs in Sha Tin District supporting candidates in their name, because these MACs or OCs needed to pass relevant decisions through the general meeting of residents, while he only saw the chairman of MACs supporting candidates in his/her own name. In his opinion, it would be unfair to the organisation or the residents to decide whether to allocate funds solely on the basis of the political attitude of the chairman of the organisation.

16. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that he had seen the MAC of Chun Shek Estate supported candidates to participate in an election, but he had never heard of them holding a general meeting of residents for this purpose. He said that when these organisations held activities, there would be suspected candidates with nametags hosting stalls and activities to publicise such candidates. He said that if these MACs sincerely organised activities for residents, they would organise activities with their own funds even if there was no DC funding.

17. The Chairman said that the criteria for funding should be discussed early and the same criteria should be used to vet the funding applications.

18. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that if an MAC supported a candidate in the name of its executive committee, it would suffice simply by passing a resolution in its executive committee, but if it was to support the candidate in the name of the MAC, a resolution passed in a general meeting of residents would be required.

19. Mr HUI Yui-yu asked whether when the Police injured young people and obstructed the work of journalists in the past year, none of the cases were prosecuted by the Department of Justice. He asked whether it would mean that there was no evidence that the Police had violated the law. He said that members had been working with the MACs for many years. They knew that these groups were assisting candidates in the election. Their personal experience was evidence. He said that as political figures, DC Members had to make value judgments. He pointed out that it was a well-known fact that some MACs supported the pro-establishment camp in elections.

20. Mr CHAN Wan-tung said that members should treat the decisions of the Working Group fairly. He said he had participated in meetings of the Working Group to learn how they vetoed funding applications from politically connected organisations. He said that the Working Group had held many meetings and they did not only veto these applications by feeling, but with substantial evidence or the personal experience of the local DC Members. For example, some corporations prevented local DC Members from putting up posters but allow the pro-establishment camp to carry out publicity; some pro-establishment candidates who lost in the election organised neighbourhood activities through these satellite organisations. He said that the decisions made by members of the Working Group at their meetings were not arbitrary but based on substantial evidence. In his opinion, members should not totally overturn the funding criteria of the Working Group.

21. The Chairman said that the Working Group had held a total of five meetings to vet the funding applications of local organisations under Expenditure Heads 1, 6, 10 and 11 and the CSCDC.

22. Mr CHAN Billy said that he had attended the meetings of the Working Group as a non-voting member and he did not think that the decisions of the Working Group were unfair. He said that his opponent in the last term was the chairman of an MAC, and the STDO had a record of him as the chairman of an MAC. He said that the STDO took the lead in advising them not to politicise things and considered many things inconsistent with the District Councils Ordinance (DCO). Therefore, the Working Group vetoed groups associated with political groups on this basis because they were politicised and inconsistent with the DCO. He said that the rejection of these groups associated with political organisations was due to evidence that these groups had cooperated with people with political party background in their past activities. Therefore, he supported the decisions of the members of the Working Group.

23. Mr LI Sai-hung said that consideration should be given to the retention or abolition of MACs as MACs had lost their role as an advisory structure. He said that some members of the public said that these MACs were not open to residents on weekdays, and some people even gathered inside to gamble. They had no practical effect, but they were the election stakes of the pro-establishment camp. He said that MACs were appointed by the STDO and were ex-officio members of Estate Management Advisory Committees (EMACs) of the Housing Department. The Housing Department would not interfere in their use of notice boards, such as assisting those in the pro-establishment camp to carry out election campaigns or applying for the banner positions of the Housing Department in the name of the MACs to carry out personal publicity for those in the pro-establishment camp. He said that it would be reasonable for members of the Working Group, after many days of discussion, to consider that no funding should be allocated to these organisations.

24. The Chairman expressed the hope that the criteria for funding discussed now could be applied to the next several Expenditure Heads. It would be important to use the same criteria to vet the funding. He hoped that the criteria would be fair, just and open.

25. Mr LO Yuet-chau said that he had participated in one of the meetings of the Working Group witnessed the members of the Working Group vetted a large number of papers and reviewed applicants with problems groups one by one, including reference information from the Internet and members' discussions. He said that members of the Working Group had provided relevant evidence on the day when the applications were vetted. Unless there was a big dispute, there was no need to discuss the approval criteria again at the meeting of the CSCDC. He said that the STDO had also conducted strict reviews over the wording on the publicity materials of DC Members. Therefore, he did not think that the review of the Working Group of the funding applications was improper. He believed that the decisions and efforts of the members of the Working Group should be respected.

26. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that he had attended all the meetings of the Working Group and thought that if members had any opinions on the vetting work of the Working Group, they should attend the meetings of the Working Group as non-voting members instead of expressing their objections only at the meeting of the CSCDC, because the meetings of the Working Group were open and transparent. He said that for him, he would decide whether to endorse the applications based on the intention of voters. He said that since the MACs did not have clear criteria for deciding which posters to put up or to obtain authorisation from residents, members of the Working Group could also decide on the funding criteria based on the intention of voters. He expressed appreciation for the attendance of Mr CHING Cheung-ying at every meeting of the Working Group, even though he expressed his opposition every time. He therefore hoped that members would respect the views of the members of the Working Group.

27. Mr George WONG said that he was the convenor of the Working Group responsible for the funding application of community organisations. He agreed that the personal political opinions of some members of the MACs and the corporations did not represent the opinions and positions of the whole MACs or corporations. Therefore, the Working Group was very cautious in vetting relevant funding applications and they would consider rejecting relevant funding only when the position of an MAC or a corporation was very obvious, or the address of the organisation had been provided for use of a political group for a long time. Therefore, other than those applications submitted late, the Working Group had already approved most of the applications and rejected only the applications of a few organisations in accordance with the relevant criteria. As for the relevant expenditure head, possibly due to the decrease in the number of applications, there had been surplus funds in the past few years.

28. Mr Ricardo LIAO pointed out that he was constantly told by members of the public during the election that they expected him to stop DC funding for these organisations closely related to the pro-establishment camp after he was elected. They ostensibly held community activities which in fact were political propaganda. He said that even when 2 million and 1 people took to the streets a year ago, there was no response from the Government. There had also been no real fairness in the past year. Therefore, the principle of fairness should not be discussed any more. As an amateur politician, what he attached importance to were the expectation of the public and his commitment to the public. The pro-establishment camp had to be stopped from using public funds for political propaganda and cheating the elderly with banquets, cakes and dumplings. He hoped that members would respect the efforts and decisions of the members of the Working Group and suggested that the meeting should vote as soon as possible instead of wasting time on the discussion.

29. Mr CHAN Wan-tung said that he agreed to vote, and he did not think that the decision involved any moral binding. Members could vote according to what they thought. In his view, there was no need for the CSCDC to discuss again the funding criteria which the Working Group had spent five days discussing. He said that the members of the Working Group had carefully verified

the applications, including reviewing the persons in charge of the activities, while they also had photos or videos to support their decisions. He believed that the meeting could vote by open ballot, and he himself supported the decisions of the members of the Working Group.

30. Mr HUI Yui-yu said that as a political council, members should consider the principles and positions on which they would make decisions. In his opinion, if funding were to be approved according to the established criteria, the relevant work could be handed over to the Secretariat. However, if funding applications were submitted to the STDC for approval, there were other considerations, while the criterion of the STDC was to promote the well-being of residents in Sha Tin District. He had participated in the meetings of the Working Group and believed that the Working Group considered various factors when vetting the applications, such as whether the group held a position opposed by the majority of the people of Hong Kong, or whether it had close relations with political figures who held these positions. He believed that the funding criteria had been discussed in detail at the meetings of the Working Group, and the current discussion could not summarise all such criteria. However, he believed that the criteria were consistent with the purpose of promoting the well-being of Sha Tin residents. He said that many of the Members present at the meeting could become DC Members not because they had a presentable appearance or did a good job in the community, but because of the political position of the public. When DC Members represented the public in the STDC in handling community affairs, they would have to make political judgments. He said that if the public did not agree with their practice, they could punish them in the next DC election. He said that there was no need to discuss the criteria for approving each application again at the meeting, because the decisions of the members of the Working Group were to promote the well-being of Sha Tin residents and they had to account to the public.

31. Ms Katy CHENG, Chief Liaison Officer of the STDO, said that the opinions of the STDO had been set out in the paper. She understood that members had different opinions on the criteria for approval of funding applications. However, the relevant funding was from the STDC, and members were required to vet and approve funding applications in accordance with the criteria endorsed at the full council meeting of the STDC. As the Funding Rules endorsed by the STDC on 23 January this year included no criterion of “association with political organisations”, the STDO put forward the issue and its suggestion for members to consider.

32. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the members of the Working Group for their efforts. He said that it was appropriate for members of the Working Group to discuss in the relevant committees after their discussions and respected the views of members. He also pointed out that he had asked the residents in the District, some of them agreed that the funding would benefit residents, while others strongly opposed to it and said that the community had been very unfair in the past year and felt very depressed. He said that no matter how unfairly his opponents had been playing, he would not want to become like them. He said he would abstain from voting as the Chairman.

33. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the Funding Rules provided that no DC funding should be applied to activities that excessively commend or publicise individuals, business organisations, political parties or groups, including activities sponsored, co-sponsored or supported in the name of DC Members, DC Members’ offices or individuals. He said that members might have seen some groups use these activities to publicise or promote election information in past activities. In addition, he said that the Funding Rules also mentioned that when assessing individual applications, consideration should be given to whether the applicant’s record of past activities was good. He said that he had participated in activities sponsored by the STDC when he was young, and some people would release information supporting certain candidates in such activities. He therefore expressed support for the decisions of the members of the Working Group.

34. Mr CHAN Wan-tung hoped that the Chairman would clarify his statement that he had just indicated that he would abstain from voting. He pointed out that the Chairman said that no matter how unfair his opponents had been playing, he would not want to become like them, so he would abstain from voting. He asked the Chairman whether he thought that members who voted for it were as playing it unfair as his opponents, and that the Chairman's remarks were arbitrary in his opinion. He said that members rejected funding those groups with obvious political connections by trying hard to prove their case by various means during the meetings of the Working Group. He said that the STDO could leave the venue because of one sentence and not provide secretarial services. He thought that such a practice was more arbitrary and unfair. He was dissatisfied with the Chairman's analogy of the work of the members of the Working Group to the unfair means of his opponents.

35. The Chairman said that he fully understood what had happened in the past year. As a member of the Democratic Party, he had to speak out when he saw social injustice. He believed that the unfairness in society far exceeded the funding issue that they were currently dealing with. After discussing the work of the Council with residents in the district, he decided to abstain from voting. However, he was unable to clearly express the level and degree of the issue just now in a brief period of time. He said that the serious unfairness imposed by the Government and the Police was the reason why Hong Kong was torn apart and full of contradictions. He respected all members no matter whether they would cast an affirmative or dissenting vote or abstain from voting. However, he only wished to express some of his personal opinions. He pointed out that Hong Kong was in a critical period of survival, and the unfairness that existed was heart breaking to the people of Hong Kong.

36. Mr LI Sai-hung said that even if he would vote for the item, he would not become like his opponents. He said that Shatin Women Society had applied for DC funding and the group had clear political connections to promote for the pro-establishment camp. He believed that the public would not agree to allocate funds to these groups with obvious political overtones.

37. Mr Jimmy SHAM said that it was in an era of political struggle. When he moved the motion of setting up a monument in Sha Tin Park at the full council meeting of the STDC, the former District Officer led his team to walk out of the meeting. He said that under political pressure from the Government, some companies were forced to dismiss employees who had participated in the anti-extradition movement, and the MTR cooperated with the Police to close its stations periodically due to the criticism of the People's Daily. He said that he had received a lot of opinions from residents hoping that they would join the council to resist such pressure. They were not only expected to veto funding, but also to look through the funding papers in the past to see if the pro-establishment camp had had secret dealings. He said that it was the utmost benevolence of his colleagues not to have done so. He hoped that local organisations could have the resources to hold activities, but he also hoped that they would keep a distance from political figures, including those from the pro-establishment and democracy camps, and concentrate on holding healthy activities instead of providing platforms for political figures participating in elections. Under the severe epidemic in Lek Yuen Estate, he and the MAC indicated that resources could be provided, but not in his name, because he hoped that they would remain neutral and serve the residents rather than politics. He hoped that these organisations would not serve any political powers. He also hoped that their activities would be more diversified, and they would care for the vulnerable groups in the community. He hoped that those applications that had not been rejected would be endorsed and so he would vote for them. He also hoped that members would remain politically neutral and not to "tailgate".

38. The Chairman hoped that the STDO would take note of the views concerning MACs. He believed that the vast majority of civil servants were politically neutral, or a small number had political missions. He said that he understood members' sentiment that even the freedom of not making a statement in Hong Kong was being deprived, and that the weakening of freedom in Hong Kong would also cost Hong Kong a heavy price. These were the root causes of social contradictions.

39. Mr Johnny CHUNG said that he did not agree with such a view that the criteria of the STDO were vague, so their approval criteria could be vague. He said that if the members of the Working Group took a personal stand first, there would not be the case that some funding applications of Cantonese-promoting organisations being rejected, while on the contrary, funding was approved for some corporations or committees refusing to liaise with local DC Members. Therefore, he believed that the members of the Working Group did not approve the funding solely by their personal stand or subjective judgment, but by relevant criteria.

40. Mr Michael YUNG said that there was a case in the past in which a whole batch of posters had to be recalled when Members submitted at a meeting that the posters of some activities excessively publicised a certain person. He suggested that whether an applicant had had done the same in photos or work reports published for past activities. If reimbursement of DC funding had been applied for such work reports, relevant information could be found in the papers available for public inspection, so that the issue of the political connection of the groups could be addressed objectively and the criteria for vetting of the Working Group could be more clearly defined.

41. The Chairman asked Mr Michael YUNG if he had any more specific suggestions on how to handle the funding applications.

42. Mr Michael YUNG said that now the STDO did not agree with the funding criteria of the Working Group. However, it was mentioned in the Funding Rules that no DC funding should be used for activities that excessively commend or publicise individuals, business organisations, political parties or political organisations, including activities sponsored, co-sponsored or supported by DC Members, DC Members' offices or individuals. He said that the Working Group could refer to the funding applications to check whether there were relevant photos or sections in their work reports that violated the above rules. He suggested that the funding applications that were not approved could be re-examined and be vetted again according to objective criteria, so as to comply with the relevant Funding Rules.

43. The Chairman said that the relevant provisions of the Funding Rules focused on activities, and members of the Working Group were well aware of the relevant funding criteria. He invited Mr SHEK William, convenor of the Working Group, to provide additional information.

44. Mr SHEK William said that members of the Working Group had clearly defined which groups were political groups, including checking whether the persons in charge and the authorised persons on the funding application forms were the core members of political groups, checking the addresses of the groups to determine whether they could be satellite organisations, and considering whether the organisations had ever sent candidates to run in elections.

45. Mr LO Yuet-chau pointed out that some participants suggested at the meeting of the group that the balance from the rejected applications could be used to cover the funds reduced as a result of the reduction in DC funding.

46. The Chairman said that the DC funding had been reduced, but the budget amount for local organisations to apply for had not been reduced. The balance after funding allocation could be dealt with in the revised budget, and the allocation of resources could be discussed at the meeting of the Finance and General Affairs Committee and the full council meeting of the STDC.

47. The Chairman said that the electronic voting system would be used to process funding applications.

48. Mr Raymond LI requested to vote by open ballot, and members including Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr TSANG Kit, Mr CHENG Chung-hang and Mr NG Kam-hung agreed to such arrangement.

49. In view of the fact that the request for voting by open ballot was supported by at least 4 other members present, the Chairman announced that the voting would be conducted by open ballot.

50. There were a total of 29 members who casted affirmative votes in favour of the funding proposal, including Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr SHEK William, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Raymond LI, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr HUI Yui-yu, Mr CHAN Billy, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TSANG Kit, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr George WONG, Mr YIP Wing, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Mr CHEUNG Chung-hang, Mr LAI Tsz-yan, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr Johnny CHUNG and Mr WAI Hing-cheung.

51. There was 1 member who casted a dissenting vote in oppose to the funding proposal, Dr LAM Kong-kwan.

52. There were a total of 4 members who abstained from voting, including Ms NG Ting-lam, Mr Wilson LI, Mr Felix CHOW and Mr CHING Cheung-ying.

53. The Chairman announced that the relevant funding proposal was endorsed with 29 affirmative votes, 1 dissenting vote and 4 abstention votes.

Funding Applications from Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 6 (Recreation and Sports) of 2020/2021
(Paper No. CSCD 32/2020)

54. The Chairman said that the Working Group recommended a total funding of \$2,150,216 for local organisations to organise activities under Expenditure Head 6. As the track and field training courses and inter-district events applied for by Sha Tin Sports Association (STSA) had to be held in accordance with the schedule of the New Territories Athletics Meet and would continue until 21 February 2021, the activities could only be held after 10 February of that financial year with the special approval of the relevant committee. He said that the Working Group had proposed to approve funding to the STSA. In addition, members could refer to the comments of the STDO on the Working Group's funding proposals. He invited Mr SHEK William, convenor of the Working Group, to provide additional information.

55. Mr SHEK William said that the STSA would receive a large sum of funding from the STDC. Some members proposed to invite the STSA to meet for dinner to exchange information on sports

activities. He hoped that the Chairman or the Chairman of the STDC would arrange for interested members to meet with the STSA to discuss their cooperation in the coming year.

56. The Chairman said that it was especially important to promote the communication between the STDC and local organisations. He hoped that Mr CHING Cheung-ying, Chairman of the STDC, would contact the STSA so that both parties could have closer contact and communication.

57. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that he had informed the STSA that he would arrange to meet and discuss with them soon after the relief of the social gathering ban.

58. Mr Michael YUNG expressed the hope that Mr SHEK William would clarify whether the meal meeting referred to a lunch meeting. Members were busy with their work and could consider using lunch time for official discussions.

59. Mr SHEK William wanted to meet or hold a meeting, and lunch would be one of the ways.

60. Mr LO Yuet-chau said that there were still funding proposals for 3 Expenditure Heads to be voted on, but he thought that the relevant criteria should be the same as those for Expenditure Head 1. He suggested that there would be no need to discuss them one by one and voting on the proposals could be conducted as soon as possible.

61. The Chairman said that he would follow up the matters relating to the STSA with the STDC Chairman and Mr SHEK William.

62. Members unanimously endorsed the application for the extension of track and field training classes and inter-district events of the STSA to 21 February 2021.

63. Mr Raymond LI requested to vote on the proposed funding to local organisations by open ballot.

64. In view of the fact that the request for voting by open ballot was supported by at least 4 other members present, the Chairman announced that the voting would be conducted by open ballot.

65. Mr CHING Cheung-ying declared again that he was the Director of the STSA and the STAA.

66. In response to the declaration, the Chairman reminded Mr CHING Cheung-ying to pay attention to the voting options. The Chairman announced the beginning of the voting.

67. There were a total of 28 members who casted affirmative votes in favour of the funding proposal, including Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr SHEK William, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Raymond LI, Mr Felix CHOW, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr CHAN Billy, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TSANG Kit, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr George WONG, Mr YIP Wing, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr Johnny CHUNG and Mr WAI Hing-cheung.

68. There was 1 member who casted a dissenting vote in oppose to the funding proposal, Dr LAM Kong-kwan.

69. There were a total of 2 members who abstained from voting, including Mr Wilson LI and Mr CHING Cheung-ying.

70. The Chairman announced that the relevant funding proposal was endorsed with 28 affirmative votes, 1 dissenting vote and 2 abstention votes.

Funding Applications from Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 10 (Community Development) of 2020/2021
(Paper No. CSCD 33/2020)

71. The Chairman invited Mr George WONG, convenor of the Working Group responsible for Expenditure Heads 10 and 11, to provide additional information.

72. Mr George WONG said that instead of reducing the funding to local organisations due to the reduction of DC funding by the Home Affairs Department, the decision was made in accordance with the funding rules. He said that funding had been approved for most of the local organisations in Expenditure Heads 10 and 11. Based on the experience of the past few years, the surplus was due to the decrease in the number of applicants and the limited amount of funds that could be approved by the activity plans completed by some local organisations.

73. The Chairman said that the Working Group had recommended a total funding of \$751,698 for local organisations to organise activities under Expenditure Head 10 this year. He reminded members to declare their interests.

74. Mr Raymond LI, Mr WONG Ho-fung and Mr CHIU Chu-pong said that they were members of Societas Linguistica Hongkongensis.

75. The Chairman reminded that if a Member was also holding a non-substantive title of the organiser, joint organiser or co-organiser of the activity, such as honorary chairman, honorary president and advisor, he/she only had to declare his/her interest before the discussion and he/she could still participate in the discussion, resolution and voting; if a member held a substantive position of the organiser, joint organiser or co-organiser of the activity, such as chairman, vice-chairman, member, secretary and treasurer, etc., he/she should declare his/her interest and remain silent in the relevant discussion and he/she was not allowed to participate in the resolution or voting of the funding application. If necessary, the member concerned could be asked to provide supplementary information according to the circumstances. If a member was the executor of the relevant activity, such as the person in charge or the authorised person, he/she should declare his/her interest and withdraw from the meeting when discussing the funding application.

76. Mr CHING Cheung-ying said that he might be an advisor of the Shatin Women Society. He said that he would clarify whether the organisation still listed him as an advisor.

77. Mr TING Tsz-yuen said that he used to be an advisor of the Shatin Women Society, but believed he was not now.

78. The Chairman said that he had also been an executive member of the Shatin Women Society.

79. Mr Raymond LI requested to vote by open ballot.

80. In view of the fact that the request for voting by open ballot was supported by at least 4 other members present, the Chairman announced that the voting would be conducted by open ballot.

81. There were a total of 28 members who casted affirmative votes in favour of the funding proposal, which included Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr YAU Man-chun, Mr SHEK William, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Raymond LI, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr HUI Yui-yu, Mr CHAN Billy, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr CHAN Nok-hang, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TSANG Kit, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr George WONG, Mr YIP Wing, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr LO Tak-ming, Mr Johnny CHUNG and Mr WAI Hing-cheung.

82. There was 1 member who casted a dissenting vote in oppose to the funding proposal, Dr LAM Kong-kwan.

83. There were a total of 3 members who abstained from voting, which included Mr Wilson LI, Mr Felix CHOW and Mr CHING Cheung-ying.

84. The Chairman announced that the relevant funding proposal was endorsed with 28 affirmative votes, 1 dissenting vote and 3 abstention votes.

Funding Applications from Local Organisations under Expenditure Head 11 (Community Organisations) of 2020/2021
(Paper No. CSCD 34/2020)

85. The Chairman said that a total funding of \$691,615 had been approved by the Working Group this year for local organisations to organise the activities under Expenditure Head 11.

86. Mr WAI Hing-cheung revealed that he was the Chairman of the owners' corporation of Wai Wah Centre and the executor of activities.

87. The Chairman invited Mr WAI Hing-cheung to withdraw from the discussion.

88. Mr Johnny CHUNG revealed that he was the advisor of the corporation of Fok On Garden.

89. The Chairman said that since Mr Johnny CHUNG was only holding a non-substantive position, he only had to declare his interests and then could still participate in the discussion, resolution and voting of the item.

90. Mr Ricardo LIAO requested to vote by open ballot.

91. In view of the fact that the request for voting by open ballot was supported by at least 4 other members present, the Chairman announced that the voting would be conducted by open ballot.

92. There were a total of 26 members who casted affirmative votes in favour of the funding proposal, which included Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr SHEK William, Mr NG Kam-hung, Mr Jimmy SHAM, Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr Raymond LI, Mr Michael YUNG, Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, Mr HUI Lap-san, Mr HUI Yui-yu, Mr CHAN Billy, Mr CHAN Pui-ming, Mr CHAN Wan-tung, Mr MAK Tsz-kin, Mr LO Yuet-chau, Mr TSANG Kit, Mr WONG Ho-fung, Mr George WONG, Mr YIP Wing, Mr LUI Kai-wing, Mr Ricardo LIAO, Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Mr CHENG Chung-hang, Mr LAI Tsz-yan, Mr LO Tak-ming and Mr Johnny CHUNG.

93. There was 1 member who casted a dissenting vote in oppose to the funding proposal, Dr LAM Kong-kwan.

94. There were a total of 3 members who abstained from voting, which included Mr Wilson LI, Mr Felix CHOW and Mr CHING Cheung-ying.

95. The Chairman announced that the relevant funding proposal was endorsed with 26 affirmative votes, 1 dissenting vote and 3 abstention votes.

Information Items

Reports of Working Groups
(Paper No. CSCD 35/2020)

96. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

97. The Chairman announced that the meeting ended at 5:31 p.m. and the next meeting would be held on 2 July 2020 (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/25

October 2020