

**Minutes of the 4th meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2021**

Date : 23 September 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>	
Chairman :	Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Vice-Chairman :	Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	2:37 pm	3:42 pm
Members :	Mr CHAN Pui-ming	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:38 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:38 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr LO Tak-ming	2:37 pm	3:02 pm
	Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Ms NG Ting-lam	2:38 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr SHEK William	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
	Mr WONG Ho-fung	2:48 pm	3:42 pm
Secretary :	Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Atg) / Sha Tin District Office	

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP	District Officer (Sha Tin)
Mr LAM Fong-tat, James	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1
Ms WONG Yuen-shan, Candice	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2
Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin, Percy	District Commander (Shatin) / Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHEUNG Wai-hang	Police Community Relations Officer / Shatin Police District / Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Kai-lam, Allan	Chief Manager / Management (TNS) / Housing Department
Ms YEW Suet-yi, Mary	District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) (Atg) / Social Welfare Department
Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson	District Lands Officer / Sha Tin / Lands Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor	Administrative Assistant / Lands (Atg) (District Lands Office, Sha Tin) / Lands Department
Ms CHU Ha-fan, Jessica	District Planning Officer / Sha Tin, Tai Po and North / Planning Department

In Attendance

Mr CHENG Kin-man, Raymond

Ms WONG Kam-lai

Mr CHAU Chun-wing

Ms WONG Sau-kuen, Joe

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Ms WONG So-man, Katrina

Title

Senior Engineer / 8 (North) /

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) /

Education Bureau

Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) /

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) /

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support)

Sha Tin / Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Principal Transport Officer / New Territories 1 /

Transport Department

Executive Officer I (District Council)3 /

Sha Tin District Office

Absent

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

(Application for leave of absence received)

Mr CHAN Nok-hang

(No application for leave of absence received)

Mr LAI Tsz-yan

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Action

The Chairman declared open the fourth meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2021.

2. The Chairman advised all attendees that the press, being present as observer, was taking photographs and making video and audio recordings.

Application for Leave of Absence

3. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (the Secretariat) had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr MOK Kam-kwai

Official commitment

4. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 July 2021

(STDC Minutes 3/2021)

5. The Chairman said that the minutes had been circulated previously. The Secretariat had not received any proposed amendments prior to the meeting. He asked if Members had any proposed amendments.

6. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Items

Schedule of Meetings of the STDC for 2022

(Paper No. STDC 47/2021)

7. Mr Chris MAK asked whether the requirement for Members' participation in the committees would be adjusted in view of the drop in the number of Members; for instance, requiring each Member to join a specified number of committee.
8. Mr CHENG Chung-hang enquired about the membership lists of the working groups under the committees and the follow-up arrangements.
9. The Chairman gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) did not stipulate the number of committee each Member had to join. According to the Standing Order, the quorum at any meeting of a committee shall be half of the total number of members of the committee. A meeting could be convened as usual provided that the requirement concerned was satisfied;
 - (b) if Members deemed it necessary to amend the Standing Orders, it should be handled by the Finance and General Affairs Committee; and
 - (c) he said that the latest membership lists of the working groups prepared by the Secretariat had been received. However, as Members had not reached a consensus on the follow-up arrangements for the working groups, he would continue to discuss the matter with Members.
10. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Updated Membership Lists of Committees under the STDC

(Paper No. STDC 48/2021)

11. The Chairman asked Members to consider whether to endorse the updated membership lists of the seven committees under the STDC.
12. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee

(Paper No. STDC 49/2021)

13. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:
 - (a) as far as he knew, a consultation by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Trunk Road T4 Scheme and major road junction improvement works in Sha Tin was underway. He would like to know whether the department concerned would consult with the STDC again upon completion of the EIA report; and

- (b) he noticed that road improvement works were being carried out at the scenes of the two traffic accidents previously occurring at Tai Chung Kiu Road. He would like to know whether the department concerned would consult with the STDC on the road junction arrangement in Sha Tin upon completion of the works.

14. Mr Patrick NG, Principal Transport Officer / New Territories 1 of the Transport Department (TD), said that he did not have the relevant information at the moment. He would relay Mr CHAN Pui-ming's opinions to the department(s) and staff concerned and contact him in due course.

15. Mr Chris MAK said that it had come to his attention that recently some government representatives often cited the lack of relevant information when responding to Members' questions in STDC meetings. He urged the departments concerned to prepare sufficient information before the meetings, and asked the Chairman and the Secretariat to follow up on the matter.

16. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the CEDD was responsible for Trunk Road T4 Scheme and major road junction improvement works in the district, so it was understandable that the TD might not be able to provide the relevant information. He hoped that the departments concerned would later consult with the STDC again on the works.

17. The Chairman asked the departments concerned to follow up on the matter, and asked Members to focus their discussion on matters related to the meeting agenda.

District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee
(Paper No. STDC 50/2021)

18. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the previous two meetings of the District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee (DFMSC) could not be convened, and some proposed works and funding applications were still pending. He asked about the date of the next DFMSC meeting.

19. Mr NG Kam-hung said that disturbances recently occurred at Hin Keng Estate from time to time, and enquired of the Police about how it would follow up on the matter.

20. Mr Percy LEUNG, District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force, said that he would follow up with Mr NG Kam-hung on the matter after the meeting.

[Post-meeting-note: The Police contacted Mr NG Kam-hung to follow up on the matter after the meeting.]

21. The Chairman gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that Mr NG Kam-hung's question could be deferred to the subsequent agenda items for discussion. He asked the Chairman of the DFMSC, Mr WONG Ho-fung, to note Mr NG Kam-hung's view;
- (b) he said that according to the Standing Orders, if a matter called for an urgent decision or advice of the committee, or if discussion of the matter could not be postponed until the next meeting of the committee, views or endorsement of

Members could be sought by circulation of papers or the relevant matter could be dealt with by convening a special meeting; and

- (c) he would follow up with Mr WONG Ho-fung on the matter of the DFMSC meetings after the meeting.

22. Mr David HO, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Atg) of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO), said that he would follow up with the Chairman and Mr WONG Ho-fung on meeting arrangements after the meeting.

Development and Housing Committee
(Paper No. STDC 52/2021)

23. Mr Felix CHOW would like to know the expected timeframe for the Planning Department (PlanD) to submit an application to the Town Planning Board (TPB) for change of land use at Sui Fai Factory Estate, as well as when and how the department concerned would provide Members with the relevant feasibility study report.

24. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he had sent a written request to the STDO for inviting the department(s) concerned to attend a meeting of the Development and Housing Committee (DHC) for discussing the construction of transitional housing in Wu Kai Sha. He asked about the follow-up arrangements; and
- (b) as he understood, the land use of the site concerned was “Government, Institution or Community”. He asked whether changing the land use of the site required approval from the TPB.

25. Mr Allan CHAN, Chief Manager / Management (TNS) of the Housing Department (HD), said that he did not have the relevant information on Sui Fai Factory Estate at the moment and would convey Mr Felix CHOW’s views to the staff concerned.

26. The Chairman asked the HD to provide a written reply.

[Post-meeting-note: The HD provided the DHC with a written reply on 12 October 2021.]

27. Ms Jessica CHU, District Planning Officer / Sha Tin, Tai Po and North of the PlanD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the redevelopment of Sui Fai Factory Estate, the department had not finalised when to submit an application for change of land use to the TPB;
- (b) she noted that a provisional motion in relation to Sui Fai Factory Estate was passed at the last DHC meeting. A reply was under preparation by the department(s) concerned; and
- (c) regarding the construction of transitional housing in Wu Kai Sha, as the project would run for less than five years, a submission to the TPB for approval was not required according to the existing policy. The Transport and Housing Bureau was responsible for the project.

28. Mr David HO said that the Secretariat had received Mr CHAN Pui-ming's letter and would continue to follow up with the Chairman of DHC on the matter.

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee

(Paper No. STDC 53/2021)

29. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that he was nominated by members to serve as a member of the 8th Hong Kong Games (HKG) Organising Committee. He invited Members who were interested in being team leaders of futsal, basketball, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, athletics and swimming events of the 8th HKG to contact him direct.

Health and Environment Committee

(Paper No. STDC 54/2021)

30. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that the post of the STDC representative at Regional Advisory Committee of the Hospital Authority (HA) had become vacant. He enquired about the follow-up arrangements.

31. The Chairman said that he had already followed up with the Secretariat on the matter after the last meeting.

32. Mr David HO added that the Secretariat had contacted the HA after the last meeting. The HA indicated that the follow-up arrangements for the committee were under review. The Secretariat would continue to keep liaising with the HA and relay to the STDC when further news was available.

Education and Welfare Committee

(Paper No. STDC 55/2021)

Finance and General Affairs Committee

(Paper No. STDC 56/2021)

33. The Council noted the seven reports of the committees above.

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 31 August 2021)

(Paper No. STDC 57/2021)

34. The Council noted the above paper.

Crime Brief of Sha Tin District for the First Half of 2021

(Paper No. STDC 58/2021)

35. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that the problem of street gambling at Yiu On Estate alleviated upon the Police's enforcement action. However, it had come to his attention that illegal gambling dens reappeared at Yiu On Estate recently. He hoped that the Police could assist in dealing with the issue.

36. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he was aware that burglaries were recently committed in rural areas covering the mid-levels in Fo Tan and Kau To Shan. As far as he knew, the Police had already

deployed resources to combat the crime such as pursuing suspects with helicopters. He enquired of the Police about the difficulties in dealing with the cases; and

- (b) he said that the number of serious drug offence in the first half of 2021 surged by 115% and asked about the reasons.

37. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he said that according to the crime figure provided by the Police, a total of eight cases of serious gambling offence were recorded in the first half of 2021. However, the actual number of gambling offence could be up to dozens according to his observation;
- (b) he pointed out that illegal gambling dens appeared in areas including Lee On Estate, the footpath between Monte Vista and Lee On Estate as well as the area under the flyover nearby. Those were organised gambling dens and the scale was comparable to a small gambling establishment; and
- (c) as the gambling dens moved around frequently, he hoped that the Police could step up patrols in the vicinity.

38. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the increase in serious drug offence in the first half of 2021 was rather significant, and enquired about the reasons and the types of drug involved;
- (b) he asked about the reasons for the continuous rise in deception, triad-related crimes and domestic violence as well as the types of deception. He hoped that the Police could share specific information on the crime situation; and
- (c) he noticed that the Police had proactively spread anti-scam messages via different means in recent years, and asked the Police whether the effectiveness of the publicity work had to be re-evaluated.

39. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed concern over juvenile and young adult offenders, especially the growing number of arrested juvenile offenders. He would like to know the types of crime these offenders were involved in general, and whether the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and social welfare organisations had intervened in the cases to learn about the causes of delinquency; and
- (b) he said some residents had recently posted in social media group(s) that suspicious marks were made outside domestic units in housing estates, suspected as marks for potential burglary targets. This issue was particularly serious in public housing and Home Ownership Scheme estates. He would like to know whether the Police had dealt with the problem, followed up with property management companies (PMCs) or provided them with relevant training.

40. The views of Mr CHENG Tsuk-man were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the number of pickpocketing cases in the first half of 2021 was low, which was satisfactory;
- (b) he said that upon renovation of Heng On Market, the widened pedestrian way made pickpocketing difficult, which helped reduce its prevalence. However, he noticed that some residents had recently posted in social media group(s) about the recurrence of pickpocketing in Heng On Market. He hoped that the Police could pay attention to the situation; and
- (c) he referred to a burglary case which took place at Heng On Estate earlier and said that the Police identified and arrested the suspect within a short period of time after viewing the closed-circuit television records of the housing estate. He praised the Police for the prompt action.

41. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed concern over the recent street gambling off Chung Tak House at Chung On Estate. He said that as there were lookouts, the street gamblers would probably have left the scene by the time the Police arrived;
- (b) He said that a request for assistance was received recently from a resident suffering monetary loss to someone asking for a loan on the street and not contactable afterwards. He indicated that the person was a habitual offender in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan; and
- (c) he said that even though the victim had provided the Police with the identity card, residential address and telephone number of the person involved, the Police said that the case could not be entertained as asking for a loan was not illegal and the victim could not produce an I-owe-you either. He would like to know whether the Police could provide assistance in dealing with the case.

42. Mr Percy LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding street gambling, the Police's stringent enforcement action had resulted in many illegal gambling dens gradually moving to remote locations or to the hills. In response to the crime trend, the current patrol areas of police officers were primarily urban areas and housing estates. Based on the actual situation, the Police would consider deploying officers of the Special Duty Squad to remote locations for enforcement action. He would follow up with Mr Chris MAK on the matter after the meeting;
- (b) he said that at present, apart from arresting street gamblers for serious gambling offence, the Police, upon arrival at the gambling scene, would also take enforcement action based on the circumstances in accordance with the gambling and relevant legislation. Even if street gamblers were not found making any cash transactions, police officers would also issue penalty tickets to them under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) ("crowd ban");

- (c) regarding burglary in rural areas, the Police would adopt a three-pronged approach to apprehend suspects at present, which included helicopter patrols, patrols at low level areas by uniformed and blue-beret police officers, and ambush operations by plainclothes police officers. In addition, the Police would fight the crime by gathering intelligence;
- (d) the increase in serious drug offence was mainly attributed to the Police's strengthened enforcement action. There were a total of 41 cases of serious drug offence in the first half of 2021, including 10 cases of trafficking in a dangerous drug and 31 cases of possession of dangerous drugs, and the detection rate was 100%. The cases generally took place on the street and the drugs involved included methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and ketamine (commonly known as "K"). Among which, there was an increase of 23 cases of serious drug offence involving cannabis when compared with the second half of 2020. The Police would pay close attention to the latest trend of drug offence involving cannabis;
- (e) there were a total of 52 cases of triad-related crimes in the first half of 2021. The Police arrested a total of 60 offenders aged between 14 and 61, and the detection rate was 94.5%. These included 25 cases of wounding and serious assault, 9 cases of debt collection and criminal damage, 7 cases of triad crimes, 1 case of drug offence and 10 cases of miscellaneous crimes such as possession of offensive weapon and serious gambling offence;
- (f) there were various reasons for domestic violence, and most of the cases were marital conflict. The Police would refer the cases to the SWD for follow-up. If the victim and the abuser lived in the same flat, the Police would arrest the abuser at once upon investigation and might ask the court to issue an injunction order against the abuser. The Police would also ensure the safety of children living in the same flat during the enforcement action;
- (g) there were a total of 678 deception cases in the first half of 2021, an increase of 99 cases when compared with the second half of 2020. The rise was mainly attributed to internet fraud, most of which were compensated dating scam;
- (h) regarding the anti-scam publicity work, the Police adopted a three-pronged approach, namely, cooperation with the community, for instance, the promotional activities organised by the Police with the HD, local residents and PMCs this month in Ma On Shan, Tin Sam and Sha Tin districts; themed talks for various organisations with the aims of alerting secondary school students to naked chat scams, alerting university students through student affairs offices to investment fraud, and promoting awareness of online romance scams among women's groups, etc.; as well as large-scale promotion such as putting up large number of posters in building lobbies. He hoped that Members could assist the Police in disseminating anti-scam messages;
- (i) regarding juvenile and young adult offenders, the Police would refer cases with offenders aged under 18 to social welfare organisations for follow-up via the "Community Support Service Scheme";
- (j) in dealing with burglary, the Police had launched the "Operation BLAZEVIEW", which provided housing estate security guards with guidance on handling entry of

non-occupants into domestic areas and a police hotline for immediate support. The Police would send plainclothes police officers to follow occupants into domestic areas from time to time, so as to test whether the security guards would stop the officers vigilantly. If the security guards succeeded in stopping the officers, the officers would pretend to be uncooperative in order to test whether the security guards would call the Police immediately for on-scene support. He said that commendation letters or warning letters would be issued to the security guards after evaluating their performances;

- (k) the Police would actively follow up on pickpocketing at Heng On Market and street gambling off Chung On Estate; and
- (l) regarding Mr HUI Lap-san's enquiry, if the suspicious person provided the victim with authentic personal particulars for obtaining a loan, it could not be proved that the suspicious person defrauded by using false information. He appealed to the Member who knew the identity of the suspicious person to provide information to the Police so that police officers could intercept the person.

43. Ms Mary YEW, District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) (Atg) of the SWD, said that the department had all along been collaborating with the court. It would provide appropriate and professional counselling service to children or adolescents who were under the court's protection orders or probation orders, and arrange probation officers to be on duty at the court for referral of cases in need.

44. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that he had noticed the posters spreading awareness of online romance scams outside police stations; however, the fraudsters depicted in the posters were all male. He pointed out that there could also be female fraudsters. He suggested that the Police review the content of future publicity materials.

45. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that at present, the Police combatted street gambling involving no cash transaction by means of "crowd ban". He would like to know what enforcement action would be taken by the Police after the epidemic and the number of penalty tickets for "crowd ban" issued by the Police in Sha Tin.

46. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the Police for the enforcement action at Lee On Estate, and he had noticed police officers patrolling in the estate from time to time. He hoped that the Police could also arrange officers to patrol the path of Lee On Estate and the area under the flyover of Trunk Road T7;
- (b) he hoped that the Police and the SWD could cooperate to provide appropriate assistance to addicted gamblers; and
- (c) he would like to know apart from "crowd ban", what other enforcement action would be taken by the Police to combat street gambling involving no cash transaction.

47. The Chairman asked the departments concerned to note Members' views and asked the Police to provide the prosecution figures in relation to the epidemic.

48. Mr Percy LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he noted Mr CHENG Chung-hang's opinion;
- (b) regarding street gambling, the Police would continue with evidence collection and investigation. Police officers could make arrests once the gamblers were found making cash transactions in the gambling. The Police would also contact the relevant PMCs and recommend the installation of closed-circuit televisions at street gambling black spots;
- (c) he noted Mr Chris MAK's opinion, and would deploy police officers to patrol the locations concerned and intercept suspicious persons; and
- (d) he would look up the prosecution figures in relation to "crowd ban" after the meeting.

[Post-meeting-note: The Police contacted Mr Chris MAK to follow up on the matter after the meeting.]

Date and Time of Next Meeting

49. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 18 November 2021 (Thursday).

50. The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/15/1

January 2022