

**Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2021**

Date : 18 November 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

Present**Time of joining
the meeting****Time of leaving
the meeting**

District Officer (Sha Tin) :	Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP (Presiding at the meeting for election of Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Sha Tin District Council)	2:30 pm	2:37 pm
Chairman :	Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	2:30 pm	2:52 pm
Vice-Chairman :	Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	2:52 pm
Members :	Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	2:52 pm
	Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	2:52 pm
	Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	2:52 pm
	Mr HUI Lap-san	2:39 pm	2:52 pm
	Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:31 pm	2:52 pm
Secretary :	Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Atg) / Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Mr LAM Fong-tat, James
 Ms WONG Yuen-shan, Candice
 Ms WONG So-man, Katrina

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1
 Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2
 Executive Officer I (District Council)3 /
 Sha Tin District Office

Absent

Dr LAM Kong-kwan (Application for leave of absence received)
 Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS (")

Action

Ms Carol OR, District Officer (Sha Tin) (DO/ST) welcomed Members to the meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC).

2. Ms Carol OR 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. Ms Carol OR said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following Members:

Dr LAM Kong-kwan
Mr MOK Kam-kwai

Official commitment
”

4. The Council approved the applications for leave of absence submitted by the Members above.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Sha Tin District Council

5. Ms Carol OR said that the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the STDC had become vacant since 8 October 2021. According to Orders 4(2) and 4(3) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders), if the above offices became vacant, Members must elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from amongst themselves at this meeting. This meeting was held for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the STDC and must be presided by the DO/ST until the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were elected before the adjournment of the meeting. According to Order 5 of the Standing Orders, the election must be held in accordance with the voting procedure set out in Schedule 5 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), i.e. Appendix I to the Standing Orders. In addition, the election must be held in accordance with the procedure set out at Appendix II to the Standing Orders.

6. Ms Carol OR advised the meeting that there were currently a total of nine STDC Members. All Members present at the meeting were entitled to vote for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in the election. Members could not appoint another Member to act as his or her proxy for the purpose of voting. According to Order 12 of the Standing Orders, the quorum of a District Council meeting was not less than half the members of the Council holding office for the time being. Therefore, the quorum of this meeting was not less than five Members. Currently six Members were present, which was already a quorum.

7. Ms Carol OR said that the Secretariat served Members with nomination forms for the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the election procedure on 10 November 2021. Subsequently, the Secretariat also contacted Members or their assistants to verbally confirm the receipt of the documents concerned by Members. The rules and procedures of this election were set out clearly in the relevant documents.

8. Ms Carol OR said that the deadline for nomination for the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman was one hour prior to the commencement of the meeting, i.e. 1:30 pm on 18 November 2021. The election of the Chairman would be followed by the election of the Vice-Chairman. By the end of the nomination period, the Secretariat received one nomination form for the post of the Chairman. The nominated Member confirmed in writing on the nomination form for the office of the Chairman that he consented to the nomination and accepted the office of the Chairman upon being elected. Details of the nomination for the office of the Chairman were as follows:

Candidate
Mr Chris MAK

Nominator
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam

Seconders
Mr Felix CHOW
Mr Johnny CHUNG

Ms Carol OR reconfirmed with the candidate Mr Chris MAK that he consented to the nomination and accepted the office of the Chairman upon being elected.

9. Ms Carol OR declared that in accordance with the Standing Orders, Mr Chris MAK was elected as the STDC Chairman because there was only one candidate.

10. Ms Carol OR announced the commencement of the election of the Vice-Chairman. By the end of the nomination period, the Secretariat received one nomination form for the post of the Vice-Chairman. The nominated Member confirmed in writing on the nomination form for the office of the Vice-Chairman that he consented to the nomination and accepted the office of the Chairman upon being elected. Details of the nomination for the office of the Vice-Chairman were as follows:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	Mr Chris MAK	Mr Felix CHOW Mr Johnny CHUNG

Ms Carol OR reconfirmed with the candidate Mr SIN Cheuk-nam that he consented to the nomination and accepted the office of the Vice-Chairman upon being elected.

11. Ms Carol OR declared that in accordance with the Standing Orders, Mr SIN Cheuk-nam was elected as the STDC Vice-Chairman because there was only one candidate. She declared that the meeting for the election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the STDC was concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Exchange of views between the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the STDC and Members after the meeting for the election

12. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked Members for their support;
- (b) he said the STDC would be prepared to work with the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) to serve the residents of the district, hoping that the remaining Members could complete the current term of office smoothly; and
- (c) as there were only nine STDC Members at present, he hoped that the committees under the STDC could be restructured by reducing the number of committees without affecting the function of the existing committees, so as to facilitate the operation of the STDC.

13. Mr Johnny CHUNG proposed that the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) and the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC) should be retained, and other committees with similar functions should be amalgamated. This included amalgamating the District Facilities Management and Security Affairs Committee (DFMSC) with the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee (CSCDC), and amalgamating the Development and Housing Committee (DHC) with the Health and Environment Committee (HEC).

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

- (a) he would like to learn more about how the Secretariat would assist in amending the terms of reference of various committees, and the relevant amendment procedures upon restructuring of the committees;
- (b) he proposed that the functions delegated to the Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) by the STDC should be transferred back to the STDC or its other working groups; and

- (c) he said that the terms of reference of the CSCDC covered community development, which was similar to the functions of the DHC, and hence he proposed consolidating the functions of the committees concerned.

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

- (a) he agreed to Mr Johnny CHUNG' s proposal and supported amalgamating the DFMSC with the CSCDC; and
- (b) considering that the expected number of funding applications to be handled by the STDC would reduce, he agreed to Mr Felix CHOW' s proposal that the functions of the FGAC, including the approval of funding applications for minor works, be transferred back to the STDC.

16. Mr HUI Lap-san proposed that the working groups under the TTC and the EWC should be restructured or reduced in number, and related matters should be discussed by the committees concerned directly.

17. Mr David HO, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) (Atg) of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that if a consensus was reached among Members on the above restructuring plan, the Secretariat would have a discussion with the Chairman on the amendments to be made to the terms of reference of various committees in due course, while assisting in following up the restructuring plan concerned; and
- (b) given that the Secretariat and the relevant departments and organisations had commenced the preparatory work for the meetings of various committees to be held in December 2021, he proposed that such meetings of various committees should be held in December 2021 according to the existing arrangements, and the restructuring arrangements for the committees should come into effect from 1 January 2022.

18. The Vice-Chairman hoped that the restructuring of committees could be handled flexibly, with meetings of some restructured committees to be convened as early as practicable, instead of officially restructuring the committees after 1 January 2022.

19. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he suggested that the Secretariat should discuss the above restructuring plan with Members;
- (b) he summarised Members' views, including their views on restructuring the committees with similar functions (by amalgamating the DFMSC with the CSCDC and amalgamating the DHC with the HEC) and transferring the functions of the FGAC back to the STDC;
- (c) he said it was hoped that a consensus could be reached on the restructuring plan by December 2021 and the Secretariat would make arrangement for the endorsement of the restructuring plan by circulation of papers, so as to facilitate the operation of the STDC; and

- (d) he invited the Secretariat to convey to the DO/ST the message that the STDC was prepared to work with the STDO to address district affairs.

20. Mr Johnny CHUNG proposed that the Chairman should invite Members to draft a provisional motion on the restructuring of committees for the Secretariat to note Members' intention.

21. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that he had summarised Members' views on restructuring of committees and the Secretariat had promised to assist in implementing the restructuring plan concerned. He urged the Secretariat to arrange follow-up actions as soon as possible; and
- (b) he said that even though the number of committees after restructuring would be fewer than that at present, the terms of reference of the STDC and its committees would remain unchanged.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

22. The discussion was concluded at 2:52 pm. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 27 January 2022 (Thursday).

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

January 2022