

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2023**

Date : 31 January 2023 (Tuesday)
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 MAK Yun-pui, Chris	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Members : Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:37 pm	2:49 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:37 pm	2:49 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	2:49 pm
Secretary : Mr SHIU Kan-yun, Roy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office	

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP	District Officer (Sha Tin)
Mr NG Wing-keung, Henry	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg)
Mr LEUNG Wai-yuen, Tommy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 (Atg)
Mr LIU Wai-man, Raymond	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Sha Tin District Office
Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office
Ms LAI Pik-ngor, Jenny	District Commander (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TAM Kwan-yi, Wilson	Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms WONG Kam-wah	Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin), Housing Department
Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy	District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin), Social Welfare Department
Ms YIP Pui-yi, Alice	District Lands Officer/Shatin (Atg), Lands Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor	Administrative Assistant/Lands (Atg), District Lands Office, Sha Tin, Lands Department
Ms YICK Hong-nien, Hannah	Senior Town Planner/Shatin, Planning Department
Mr LAU Tin-lap, Daniel	Senior Engineer/9 (North), Civil Engineering and Development Department

In Attendance

Ms WONG Kam-lai

Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Title

Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin),
Education Bureau

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

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the first meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2023.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had not received any application for leave of absence in writing from Members prior to the meeting.
3. Mr Johnny CHUNG wished to know when the public gallery could be reopened for members of the public to observe STDC meetings.
4. Mr Roy SHIU, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the Sha Tin District Office, said that with the Government's relaxation of the social distancing measures, the public gallery had been reopened for members of the public to observe STDC meetings.
5. Mr Johnny CHUNG asked the Secretariat to assist in announcing to the public that the public gallery had been reopened for members of the public to observe STDC meetings.
6. The Vice-Chairman suggested that the Secretariat should post the information about the reopening of the public gallery on the STDC's notice boards.
7. Mr Felix CHOW said that the Commissioner for Labour was unable to attend the previous STDC meeting. He would like to learn more about the subsequent arrangements and the progress of the follow-up action taken by the Secretariat.
8. Mr Roy SHIU gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) he said that the Secretariat would assist in disseminating the message of the reopening of the public gallery to the public; and
 - (b) the Secretariat would continue to maintain liaison with the Labour Department. Further information on the subsequent arrangements, when available, would be relayed to the STDC.

[Post-meeting note: The arrangement for the reopening of the public gallery for members of the public to observe meetings of the STDC and its committees was announced by the Secretariat on the STDC website.]

9. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to continue to follow up the issue on the visit of the Commissioner for Labour to the STDC.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24 November 2022

(STDC Minutes 6/2022)

10. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee

(Paper No. STDC 1/2023)

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

- (a) he wished to know the works progress of converting Tai Wai Roundabout (i.e. the roundabout near Che Kung Miu Road) to a two-lane spiral roundabout; and
- (b) he would like to discuss the rerouting of Route No. 288 of The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB) in the next meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee.

12. The Chairman said that he wrote to the Commissioner for Transport about the rerouting of KMB Route No. 288 on 12 January this year. He wished to know whether the Department had received his letter.

13. Mr Patrick NG, Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1 of the Transport Department, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that information on the works progress of converting Tai Wai Roundabout to a two-lane spiral roundabout was currently unavailable. He would follow up the progress of the works concerned with the engineering division after the meeting;
- (b) to tie in with the commissioning of the new school premises of TWGHs Tsoi Wing Sing Primary School on Pok Chuen Street and to enhance traffic routing, the route of KMB Route No. 288 was extended since 8 January this year, with its terminus relocated to Shui Chuen O (Upper) stop on Pok Chuen Street. The route in both directions, starting from the same day, no longer passed through the original terminus at Shui Chuen O Public Transport Interchange. In response to the concerns of the residents of Shui Chuen O Estate and users of community services about the rerouting of KMB Route No. 288, the Transport Department (TD) and KMB, after deliberation, decided that both directions of the route were proposed to operate via Shui Chuen O Public Transport Interchange. Amalgamation and rationalisation of the route with Route No. 288A would also be conducted. The TD was consulting the local community on the proposal through the Sha Tin District Office and had informed Members of the areas involved; and

- (c) the TD received the letter from the Chairman in January. He would learn more about the updates on the follow-up actions from the Senior Transport Officer/Shatin after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: As understood by the TD, the Highways Department was handling issues on the preparatory arrangements for the Tai Wai Roundabout improvement works, such as temporary traffic arrangements as well as applications for excavation permits and construction noise permits. The improvement works were expected to commence in the first half of this year.]

Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 2/2023)

Education and Welfare Committee
(Paper No. STDC 3/2023)

Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee
(Paper No. STDC 4/2023)

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

- (a) Members previously proposed that the Housing Department (HD) should convert the open space in the proximity of Chung Tak House in Chung On Estate to recreational facilities, so as to alleviate the situation of crowd gatherings and gambling at the location. However, the HD subsequently indicated that as it was necessary to strike a balance between the provision of open space and cultural and recreational facilities, the proposed conversion could not be implemented. Nevertheless, the situation of gambling at the said location showed no sign of improvement over the past few years. He would like to ascertain with the HD if there was no room for implementing the proposed conversion; and
- (b) he thanked the Police for having proactively combatted the problems of crowd gatherings and gambling in Chung On Estate and other black spots of gambling activities in Sha Tin District. Under the stringent law enforcement of the Police, the problems of crowd gatherings and gambling in Chung On Estate were once resolved. However, with the Government's relaxation of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) ("no-gathering order"), such problems re-emerged at the location outside Chung Tak House in Chung On Estate. He learnt that the Police took law enforcement actions from 15 to 17 January this year, during which more than ten people gathering around Chung Tak House without wearing masks were arrested. However, as the epidemic situation in Hong Kong gradually subsided, he expected that the Government would soon relax the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap. 599I) ("mask order"). He wished to know the law enforcement actions to be taken by the Police against crowd gatherings and gambling upon lifting of the "mask order".

15. Ms WONG Kam-wah, Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin) of the HD, said that she would provide a reply to Mr HUI Lap-san's question after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The reply from the HD was set out in the supplementary information of Report of the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee (Paper No. STDC 4/2023).]

16. Ms Jenny LAI, District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that Sha Tin Police District had been working with different organisations and departments to combat illegal street gambling through education and publicity as well as intelligence collection and strengthening of enforcement; and
- (b) she said that apart from issuing penalty notices to illegal gamblers in accordance with the "no-gathering order" and "mask order", the Police had combatted illegal gambling through various anti-gambling actions from time to time, including exploring the possibility of setting penalties for occupants participating in illegal gambling activities within the areas of public housing estates.

17. The Chairman said that there were quite a number of black spots of gambling activities in Sha Tin, Ma On Shan and Tai Wai, such as Chung On Estate, Yiu On Estate, Lee On Estate, Heng On Estate and Lung Hang Estate. He invited the HD and the Police to approach individual Members to obtain information about gambling from frontline people in the local community, and to arrange for joint inspections with Members in several afternoon sessions at various locations involving gambling activities. This would enable the relevant departments to map out directions for combatting gambling activities in the district. He also asked the Secretariat to convey the invitation for liaison and joint inspections to the HD and the Police in due course for their follow-up actions.

[Post-meeting note: The HD and the Police conducted a joint inspection with relevant Members in Sha Tin District on 7 March 2023 to follow up the above matters.]

18. The Council noted the above four reports of the committees.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

19. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 23 March 2023 (Thursday).

20. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 pm.

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

March 2023