

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Finance, Administration and Publicity Committee (2016-2017) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date : 17 June 2016 (Friday)

Time : 9:37 a.m.

Venue : Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Mr AU Chi-yuen (Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr HO Kwan-yiu (Vice-chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kin-man, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Chairman	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEE Hung-sham, Lothar, MH	TMDC Vice-chairman	9:41 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, MH, JP	TMDC Member	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:41 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:39 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member	9:40 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms LUNG Shui-hing	TMDC Member	9:36 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:43 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Hang-fai	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hin-hong	TMDC Member	9:49 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms SO Ka-man	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:52 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YIP Man-pan	TMDC Member	9:36 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YEUNG Chi-hang	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YAN Siu-nam	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TAM Chun-yin	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms LEE Wen Choi, Winnie (Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council) 2, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

Absent with Apologies

Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo	TMDC Member
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member

By Invitation

Ms WONG Kwai Kiu, Connie

Senior Land Executive/Land Control (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun), Lands Department

In Attendance

Ms FUNG Ngar-wai, Aubrey

District Officer (Tuen Mun), Home Affairs Department

Mr CHAU Ka-nin, Eric

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

Mr LAU Chun-fai, Lawrence

Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 4th meeting of the Finance, Administration and Publicity Committee (“FAPC”).

2. The Chairman asked Members to note that any Member who was aware of a personal interest in a discussion item should declare the interest before the discussion. The Chairman would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council Standing Orders, decide whether the Member who had declared an interest might speak or vote on the matter, might remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting. All cases of declaration of interests would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

II. Absence from Meetings

3. The Secretary said that no application for leave of absence had been received from Members.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. As no amendment was proposed by Members, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the FAPC (2016-17) were confirmed.

IV. Matters Arising

(A) Improve the Arrangements for Hanging of Banners by District Councillors (Paragraphs 15-18 of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting and Paragraphs 7-16 of the Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the FAPC (2016-2017))

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms Connie WONG, Senior Land Executive/Land Control (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun) (“DLO/TM”), Lands Department (“LandsD”) to the meeting. He remarked that the FAPC had discussed the issue at the 2nd and 3rd meetings this year and resolved that the DLO/TM should complete the necessary follow-ups before this meeting.

6. Ms Connie WONG of the DLO/TM reported that she had contacted all TMDC Members on the issue but some of them could not find time to join the DLO/TM for site visits. The DLO/TM had received a number of requests on banner display from TMDC Members which would be followed up by batches. She continued that views of TMDC Members mainly included: (i) dissatisfaction was expressed at the existing display spots and it was hoped that they would be replaced by new ones; (ii) it was hoped that the exchange of display spots with TMDC Members of the nearby constituencies would be allowed; (iii) it was hoped that the number of display spots would be increased; and (iv) it was hoped that follow-up actions regarding the obscuring of display spots by miscellaneous articles would be taken. She remarked that the DLO/TM was consulting the Transport Department (“TD”), Highways Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) and Tuen Mun District Office on the new display spots. However, since the DLO/TM had underestimated the lead time for the departments to follow up and it needed time to

follow up some of the views which were relatively complex, it was unable to confirm all the display spots for the time being. At present, the DLO/TM had received 70-odd requests relating to new display spots, of which some might involve private land that required further clarification. However, the DLO/TM had completed the follow-ups on the display spots which involved road works and U-shaped railings.

7. Members put forward their enquiries and views on the issue which were summarised as follows:

- (i) It was opined that as DC members had been informed to remove their banners before 2 July this year because of the approaching of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Election, the opportunity should be taken to give priority to DC members in selecting display spots. While a Member pointed out that DC members had been given priority in selecting display spots and opined that the principle of “DC members came first” should be clearly set at this meeting, another Member said that there was no need to set the principle of “DC members came first” as long as DC members could select display spots before the completion of the LegCo Election;
- (ii) It was opined that generally speaking, cross-constituency display of banners should not be allowed and questioned that the definition of “cross-constituency” was not clear. It was pointed out that the banner display areas for DC members were delineated according to the constituencies, which had not taken into account the living habits of residents. It was suggested that the DLO/TM should adopt a flexible approach in this regard. A Member opined that constituency boundaries were unclear and suggested that the TMDO should clarify the boundaries;
- (iii) It was pointed out that some of the display spots had been obscured by the Government’s greening works and suggested that the Government should consult TMDC Members or the FAPC before the implementation of the greening works concerned;
- (iv) It was remarked that regarding the requests for change of display spots made earlier, the DLO/TM had indicated that instant permission could not be granted because the land rights had not been clarified. It was hoped that after the DLO/TM had conducted site visits and confirmed the appropriateness of the locations, TMDC Members of the constituencies would be allowed to display banners immediately without having to wait for the issue of approval documents so as to avoid losing time for publicity;
- (v) It was hoped that DC members would be allowed to display banners from the day after the LegCo Election without having to wait for the issue of approval documents. While a Member expressed dissatisfaction that the locations and serial numbers of display spots for DC members had been changed after the LegCo Election, another Member said that DC members had been able to continue to use the original display spots after the LegCo Election;
- (vi) Dissatisfaction was expressed at the performance of the staff of the contractor.

It was pointed out that when visiting the display spots with TMDC Members, the staff of the contractor had only taken photos of the display spots for record purpose and refused to record the serial numbers of the display spots. Another Member suggested that the DLO/TM should follow up the issue in accordance with the views of Members and stop relying on the contractor. Otherwise, non-compliance in relation to the display of banners of TMDC Members would be resulted;

- (vii) It was pointed out that while the display spots previously proposed had been rejected by the TD, the same spots had been approved for LegCo members' display of banners subsequently. It was questioned that different criteria had been adopted;
- (viii) It was opined that consideration should be given on ways to facilitate DC members in carrying out wide and effective publicity during the LegCo Election. It was also pointed out that asking DC members to remove their publicity materials during the LegCo Election and the Election Committee Subsector Elections was a deprivation of their rights of publicity, and such an arrangement should be reviewed by the Home Affairs Department ("HAD");
- (ix) It was pointed out that the previous TMDCs had held numerous discussions and spent a lot of time on this issue;
- (x) It was suggested that a non-standing working group should be set up. Moreover, the representative of the DLO/TM was asked to attend the meetings of the working group so that TMDC Members could have priority in selecting display spots before the LegCo Election and avoid missing the opportunity for priority selection. While a Member agreed to the suggestion of setting up a working group, another Member opined that the establishment of the working group was not conducive to speeding up the process and suggested that a follow-up plan should be decided at this meeting;
- (xi) It was opined that since TMDC Members had the best understanding of their respective constituencies and some locations had environmental constraints, the DLO/TM should allow TMDC Members to select the display spots on their own. Another Member opined that the selection of display spots by TMDC Members should follow two different approaches: 1) to select from designated display spots provided by the DLO/TM; and 2) to propose on their own the locations at which they would like to display publicity materials.

8. The response of Ms Connie WONG of the DLO/TM in respect of the views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (i) She remarked that since the LegCo Election was approaching, all persons had to remove on their own the publicity materials hung at the display spots, and the publicity materials, which would be allowed to be displayed at the approved locations after 21 September, had to be removed again in late October due to the holding of the Election Committee Subsector Elections;

- (ii) She remarked that since the term of office of the LegCo had not ended, approval could not be granted to DC members for using the display spots already selected by LegCo members;
- (iii) She remarked that with regards to whether DC members could be given priority in selecting display spots, it would depend on whether any discussion had been held on the issue in the past, and that if the principle of “DC members came first” had been endorsed, the DLO/TM would respect the relevant arrangements. Since the issue was territory-wide in nature, the DLO/TM would look through the relevant information and provide a reply as soon as possible;
- (iv) She remarked that the display spots were delineated according to the constituency boundaries, and DC members could select the designated display spots marked on the relevant plans;
- (v) She remarked that if display spots were obscured by works or greening projects, the DLO/TM could consider arranging new display spots as replacements. However, it could not increase the number of designated display spots;
- (vi) She remarked that the DLO/TM would issue approval documents in respect of the accepted display spots as soon as possible, and TMDC Members must not display publicity materials until receiving approval documents;
- (vii) She pointed out that in late December last year, letters had been sent to TMDC Members notifying them of the approved display spots, which could be used until the end of their term of office without the need of re-application. After the LegCo Election, TMDC Members could display their banners according to the approval letters and serial numbers received earlier. If problems were found at some of the display spots where change of locations was required, the DLO/TM would follow up accordingly; and
- (viii) She remarked that if the working group was formed, she would certainly join the relevant discussions.

9. District Officer (Tuen Mun) welcomed the consent of Ms Connie WONG of the DLO/TM to join the working group and hoped that the working group would actively follow up the locations, criteria, time tables, etc. in respect of banner display.

10. The Chairman concluded that it was the FAPC’s view that the LandsD should draw up guidelines to allow DC members to have priority in selecting locations for displaying banners. In respect of the locations for TMDC Members to display banners, while opining that TMDC Members should communicate and follow up with the DLO/TM directly, the Chairman remarked that a non-standing working group should also be formed and all TMDC Members should be invited to join the discussions. He also thought that a consensus on the arrangements for TMDC Members to display banners should be reached before September.

11. The Chairman invited nominations for the convenorship. Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine nominated Ms LUNG Shui-hing, Chairman of the Environment,

Hygiene and District Development Committee as she thought that banner display was a matter relating to district environment.

12. Ms CHING Chi-hung nominated the Chairman for the convenorship. Another Member opined that since the issue was related to all TMDC Members, it should be followed up by the Chairman or the Vice-chairman of the FAPC.

13. The Chairman said that he was unable to serve as the convenor of the working group because of his busy schedule. Ms LUNG Shui-hing accepted the nomination which was seconded by Mr TSANG Hin-hong. As there was no other nomination, Ms LUNG Shui-hing was elected uncontested as the convenor of the working group. The Chairman asked the Secretary to, after the meeting, invite all TMDC Members and representatives of departments concerned (including the FEHD and the TD) to attend the meetings to follow up the relevant matters. In addition, a Member asked the DLO/TM to provide information on individual sub-constituencies to TMDC Members of the respective constituencies to facilitate the discussion at the meetings.

Secretary

DLO/TM

V. Discussion Items

(A) DC Funds Applications (Projects to be Held or Commenced between July 2016 and January 2017) (FAPC Paper No. 11/2016)

14. The Chairman reminded Members that during the discussion on applications for DC Funds, Members should refrain from speaking on any funding applications with which they found themselves associated, and that if they wished to speak or vote on the funding applications concerned, they should make such a request to him before doing so. As Members had submitted the Declarations of Interests in Handling DC Funds before, they were not required to make declarations again at this meeting unless they wished to speak or vote on applications with which they were associated. Ms KONG Fung-yi declared interests as the chairperson of Tuen Mun Elderly United Association and Tuen Mun Forth Viewers, so she would not raise any views on the applications of the two organisations.

15. The Chairman said that the FAPC had, at the previous meeting, resolved that the total funding for the first two rounds of application from general district organisations be capped at \$3 million. Since a total of \$1,681,665.5 had been allocated for the first round of application, the amount of funding available for general district organisations in this round was \$1,318,334.5. As the funding was not sufficient to accommodate applications from all organisations, after scrutinising the application documents submitted by the organisations, the amount of funding for each organisation in this round of application had been capped at \$16,300. He continued that to facilitate a more flexible and effective use of DC funds by general district organisations, the Secretariat had written to those who had applied for funding over the limit of \$16,300, asking them to indicate the priority of the activities to be held. The Secretariat had allocated funding to the activities according to the priority set by the organisations. Members had no comments on the aforesaid arrangements.

16. The Chairman also remarked that one of the organisations in this round of

application had had its funding cancelled by the FAPC once during this financial year (“FY”) because of non-compliance. According to the handling approach endorsed by the FAPC, any new applications from organisations which had a total of two occasions of non-compliance during the previous and the current FYs would not be approved. Since the organisation had one occasion of non-compliance only, its application could be approved.

17. As Members had no comment on the funding, the Chairman announced the endorsement of an allocation of \$4,294,164 to a total of 304 applications. Applications involved funding of \$100,000 or more would be submitted to the TMDC for endorsement.

(B) EPD Funds Applications for Community Participation Initiative on Environmental Protection
(FAPC Paper No. 12/2016)

18. The Chairman remarked that the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) had provided a funding of \$200,000 to the TMDC through the HAD for organising community involvement activities. There was one application for endorsement at this meeting. As the EPD had indicated that applications of the activities concerned had to be examined in accordance with the procedures adopted by the TMDC in funding community involvement programmes, the application was tabled at this meeting for FAPC’s endorsement. Since Members had no comment on the application, the Chairman announced the endorsement of a funding of \$6,000 to the application.

VI. Reporting Items

(A) Position of TMDC Funds up to 2 June 2016
(FAPC Paper No. 13/2016)

19. The Chairman remarked that as at 2 June 2016, the TMDC had allocated a total of \$17,406,120 for organising 538 community involvement activities.

VIII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

(A) Printing of 2017 TMDC Calendars and Red Packets

20. The Chairman pointed out that each year, the FAPC would undertake the ordering of TMDC calendars and red packets to promote the work of TMDC. In this regard, the FAPC resolved to set up a non-standing working group to follow up the aforesaid printing matters.

21. The Chairman invited nominations for the convenorship. Mr CHAN Yau-hoi nominated the Chairman and the nomination was seconded by Mr TO Sheck-yuen. The Chairman accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced that he himself was elected uncontested as the convenor of the working group. He pointed out that the term of office of a non-standing working group could not exceed eight months and asked the Secretary to, after the meeting, write to the Members, inviting them to join the working group.

Secretary

22. The Chairman continued that the production of calendars required a lot of photos and invited Members to, as far as possible, provide photos with local characteristics to the Secretariat for the working group's selection. After the meeting, the Secretary would follow up with the working group on quotations from contractors. To facilitate the selection of suitable contractors by Members, the Secretary would also request the contractors to provide samples of calendars and red packets, and report to the FAPC at the next meeting.

23. The Chairman said that the FAPC undertook the production of calendars and red packets annually and the publication of the work report biennially. The Chairman opined that the arrangements had been adopted for years and hoped that by drawing on collective wisdom, Members could consider promoting the work of TMDC through new approaches.

24. There being no other business, the Chairman announced the close of meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 12 August 2016 (Friday).

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 29 July 2016

Ref: HAD TM DC/13/25/FAPC/16