

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in 2017**  
**of the Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industries, Tourism and**  
**Recreation Affairs Committee of the Tai Po District Council**

Date: 12 May 2017 (Friday)

Time: 9:32 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”)

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of Arrival</u></b>	<b><u>Time of Withdrawal</u></b>
<b><u>Chairman</u></b>		
Mr. YU Chi-wing, Ken	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<b><u>Vice-chairman</u></b>		
Mr. LI Kwok-ying, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<b><u>Member</u></b>		
Mr. AU Chun-wah	11:17 a.m.	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung, MH	Beginning of the meeting	11:40 a.m.
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHOW Yuen-wai	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. KWAN Wing-yip	9:48 a.m.	End of the meeting
Dr. LAU Chee-sing	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LAU Yung-wai	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung	9:58 a.m.	End of the meeting
Mr. TAM Wing-fun, Eric	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. TANG Ming-tai, Patrick	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WOO Kin-man, Clement	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YAM Kai-bong, Francis	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YAM Man-chuen	9:38 a.m.	End of the meeting
<b><u>Co-opted Members</u></b>		
Mr. CHU King-yuen, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	11:38 a.m.
Mr. LAM B	Beginning of the meeting	12:40 p.m.
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>		
Miss LIU Ka-man, Mandy Executive Officer (District Council) 2, Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”), Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

## **In Attendance**

Mr. CHAN Lap-wai	Senior Assistant Shipping Master / North, Marine Department ("MD")
Mr. CHAN Yiu-wa, Andrew	Chief Health Inspector 1, Tai Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")
Ms. NG Wing-yin	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD")
Mr. NG Chi-keung, Barry	Senior Librarian (Tai Po), LCSD
Ms. TSANG Mei-ying, May	Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion, LCSD
Ms. NG Sheung-han, Alice	Manager (New Territories East) Marketing & District Activities, LCSD
Mr. WU Tip-ming, Wilson	Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Extension) (Acting), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD")
Mrs. STEWART Pik-ha, Sara	Fisheries Officer (Mariculture Development), AFCD
Mr. SHEK Chung-tong	Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement), AFCD
Dr. CHU Chun-wa, Jim	Senior Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Fisheries), AFCD
Dr. LEE On-on, Joanne	Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Environment), AFCD
Ms. HO Chun-man, Valerie	Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) 2, AFCD
Mr. CHOW Ming-him	Consultant, ERM-Hong Kong Limited
Mr. CHAN Ming-chi	Marine Consultant, BMT Asia Pacific Limited
Mr. LO Suet-fung, James	Senior Marine Engineer / Authorised Surveyor of the MD, BMT Asia Pacific Limited
Mr. LEE Yu-sau, Terence	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), TPDO, HAD
Mr. CHAN Hoi-ming, Peter	Senior Liaison Officer (1), TPDO, HAD
Ms. YIP Lisa	Liaison Officer (7), TPDO, HAD

## **Opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed participants to the Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industries, Tourism and Recreation Affairs Committee ("ATRC") meeting, and announced that Mr. WU Tip-ming, Wilson, Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Extension) (Acting) of the AFCD, attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. FUNG Ho-lam, Chris.

### **I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ATRC in 2017 on 10 March 2017** **(TPDC Paper No. ATR 18/2017)**

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received proposed amendments from the MD

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 18/2017 referred) before the meeting, and no Members proposed further amendments at this meeting. The said minutes were confirmed as amended.

## **II. Expansion of Yim Tin Tsai Fish Culture Zone**

(TPDC Papers No. ATR 19/2017, ATR 30/2017 and ATR 31/2017)

3. The Chairman welcomed the following persons to the meeting for discussion of this agenda item: Dr. CHU Chun-wa, Jim, Dr. LEE On-on Joanne and Ms. HO Chun-ma, Valerie, Senior Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Fisheries), Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Environment) and Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) 2 respectively of the AFCD; Mr. CHOW Ming-him, Consultant of ERM-Hong Kong Limited; as well as Mr. CHAN Ming-chi and Mr. LO Suet-fung, James, Marine Consultant and Senior Marine Engineer / Authorised Surveyor of the MD of BMT Asia Pacific Limited.

4. Dr. LEE introduced the captioned paper:

- (i) Since 1990, the Government had stopped issuing new marine fish culture licences for environmental reasons and banned the expansion of the raft areas of the existing fish culture zones (FCZs) and no longer designated new FCZs. After a review conducted in 2012, the Government found that some FCZs had far exceeded its environmental carrying capacity. The Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) had discussions on the above review on 11 June 2013 and supported the implementation of a number of new initiatives, including the expansion of the scope of one existing FCZ.
- (ii) At present, Yim Tin Tsai FCZ has a higher fish raft density than the other FCZs. The AFCD proposed setting up a 4.5-hectare fish culture sub-zone about 500 metres west of A Chau without increasing the total area of fish rafts, allowing some of the existing Yim Tin Tsai fish farmers to move to the sub-zone for operations so as to reduce the current density of fish rafts. In addition to enhancing the sea water flow in the area and improving the water quality environment of marine fish culture, the scheme would also help seabed recovery and widen the watercourse between fish rafts so as to facilitate their relocation in times of crisis.
- (iii) The above scheme covered an expanded area of less than 5 hectares and there were no existing or planned marine parks, marine reserves or beaches within 500 metres of its boundary. The Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”), under Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Chapter 499), considered that this proposal was not a designated project and there was no need for a statutory environmental impact assessment (“EIA”).

- (iv) The AFCD commissioned a consultant in February 2014 to conduct a technical and environmental feasibility assessment. The results of the technical assessment showed that the proposed mariculture sub-zone could accommodate about 23% of the fish rafts at the existing FCZs, and the establishment of a fish culture sub-zone could help reduce the breeding density and water quality of the existing FCZs which would benefit the fish farming activities. The results of the EIA showed that the establishment and operation of the sub-zone would not lead to any immitigable environmental impacts. However, to ensure that the sub-zone would not adversely affect the sensitive receivers to water quality or the environment in the vicinity, the consultant advised the AFCD to implement water quality monitoring, environmental protection measures and good practices.
- (v) The existing licensees of Yim Tin Tsai FCZ could apply for the relocation of all or part of their fish rafts to the sub-zone for operation according to their wishes and actual needs, provided that the total area of fish rafts remained unchanged. The AFCD would consider the applicants' breeding operations, as well as the actual situation and waterway requirements of the sub-zone when processing the applications.
- (vi) The AFCD conducted consultation on the above scheme from March to September 2015. The parties consulted included the AFCD, the EPD, the MD, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Aquaculture Sub-committee and Capture Fisheries Sub-committee under the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium, the Federation of Hong Kong Aquaculture Associations, the New Territories Fishermen Fraternity Association, licensees of Yim Tin Tsai FCZ and the Tai Po Rural Committee ("TPRC"). Those consulted generally supported the scheme and considered the scheme beneficial to the marine fish farming sector. On the other hand, some stakeholders thought that the scheme would have a slight impact on the capture fisheries sector and the proposed sub-zone was more susceptible to wind. In addition, some stakeholders expressed concern that the existing FCZs would be used for other purposes after the establishment of the sub-zone, while some stakeholders also suggested imposing a moratorium period for fish rafts.
- (vii) After following up the above comments, the AFCD responded as follows:
  - (a) The proposed sub-zone was not a major spawning ground for fish. Its fishery output was only moderate to low and its impact on the capture fisheries sector limited, and the capture fishermen in the area also found the impact insignificant.
  - (b) The AFCD had adjusted the location of the sub-zone to 200 metres west of A Chau towards its inner cove, so as to reduce the impact of wind to the

operation.

- (c) The AFCD recommended that fish farmers should adopt a new type of deep-water net cages at the sub-zone to replace the traditional wooden raft net cage design. The new deep-water net cages had strong resistance against winds, tidal currents, waves and ageing. According to the consultant's studies, the new deep-water net cages would remain intact even in adverse weather conditions and would not pose potential navigational risks to other users at sea.
  - (d) The proposed sub-zone would operate as an extension of Yim Tin Tsai FCZ, and the current FCZ would remain unchanged for the purpose of fish farming.
  - (e) The AFCD considered to vacate the original fish raft locations for one year and allowed the applicants to consider whether they had to move back to the original locations within a year. After the year was up, if the applicants chose to remain in the sub-zone for operation, their original fish raft locations would be made open to relocation application to the AFCD by other fish farmers according to the established procedures.
- (viii) The AFCD expected to submit the relevant legislative amendments to the LegCo for deliberation in 2017, and expected to begin receiving relocation applications from Yim Tin Tsai FCZ licensees in 2018. The AFCD would refer to the experience of Yim Tin Tsai FCZ to explore the possibility of expanding other overcrowded FCZs.

5. The Chairman reported that the Federation of Hong Kong Aquaculture Associations wrote to the ATRC (TPDC Paper No. ATR 30/2017 referred), expressing its support for the expansion of the FCZs, and proposing recommendations like according priority to fish farmers in Yim Tin Tsai FCZ to apply for relocation to the mariculture sub-zone, etc.

6. The Chairman said that fishermen in Yuen Chau Tsai also wrote to the ATRC (TPDC Paper No. ATR 31/2017 referred), criticising the Government for not carrying out an extensive consultation on the above scheme, as some stakeholders were not aware of it.

7. Members' first-round of comments was as follows:

- (i) Ms. WONG Pik-kiu was concerned that relocation of fish farmers to the sub-zone would increase their water and electricity bills. She asked whether the AFCD had planned to solicit the views of other related persons within the department. She said that as a member of the TPRC, she was not aware that the AFCD had been to the TPRC for consultation, and she opined that the AFCD should conduct

further in-depth consultation.

- (ii) Mr. CHAN Cho-leung said that as an Executive Member of the TPRC, he did not know that the AFCD had proposed the scheme. He would like to find out why the Federation of Hong Kong Aquaculture Associations advised the AFCD not to accept applications of fish farmers from other areas for relocating to the mariculture sub-zone for the time being, and whether the AFCD would provide fish farmers with financial support for relocating to the sub-zone or back to their original locations. He also said that the Government had been tightening the policies regarding the fishing sector so that only about eight to ten fishing vessels were operating in Tai Po District. Although the above scheme was voluntary, fish farmers were worried that the Government would force them to relocate in future.
- (iii) Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex enquired whether the AFCD would allow fish farmers from other areas to relocate to the mariculture sub-zone and whether the departments concerned and power companies would construct a power supply station in A Chau. If no, would the Government provide funding support for extending the power cables from Yim Tin Tsai to A Chau? He also pointed out that while the AFCD indicated that it had consulted a number of organisations concerned, relevant parties of the TPRC and Tai Po Luen Yick Rural Committee all said that they had no knowledge of it at all.
- (iv) Mr. YAM Kai-bong, Francis believed that the AFCD should propose specific measures to facilitate the relocation of fish farmers. He would also like to know the cost of acquiring the new type of deep-water net cages, and whether the Government would provide fish farmers with allowances for acquiring them. In addition, he asked whether the AFCD had consulted fishermen's organisations and the legislative councillor of the Agriculture and Fisheries Functional Constituency, and whether the proposed mariculture sub-zone would affect waterways and water activities.
- (v) Mr LI Kwok-ying, the Vice-chairman, wondered that the AFCD's approach to consultation was not appropriate. He said that fish farmers might not have a fixed address and might not understand the details of the scheme. It would not be enough for the AFCD to just send letters to the fish farmers to introduce the scheme. He suggested the AFCD representatives visit the mariculture zones in person to convene a residents' assembly to alleviate the fish farmers' concerns about the scheme.
- (vi) Mr. TANG Ming-tai, Patrick, in his capacity as the Deputy Director of General Affairs of the TPRC, enquired whether the AFCD had indeed visited the TPRC for consultation on the above scheme.
- (vii) Dr. LAU Chee-sing would like to know whether the scheme to expand the FCZs

was originally proposed by the fish farmers or the AFCD, and whether the Yim Tin Tsai FCZ licensees consulted by the AFCD could represent the fish farmers of the two areas of Yim Tin Tsai East and Yim Tin Tsai West. He said that some fish farmers were worried about the Government's "false consultation and real eviction". The AFCD should understand whether the fish farmers could afford to relocate and purchase the new deep-water net cages, and provide adequate support to cater for the needs of fish farmers. He asked the AFCD to visit to the FCZs in Tai Po District again for in-depth consultations.

- (viii) Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen said that as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chairman of the TPRC, he never received any papers about the scheme. In his opinion, the Government should make reference to the Mainland's practices of taking care of the needs of fish farmers while making them live and work in peace. He agreed that the AFCD should collect the opinions of fish farmers again.

8. Dr. CHU responded as follows:

- (i) The AFCD held a consultation meeting with the Agriculture and Fisheries Team of the TPRC on 7 September 2015. Attendees included the head and deputy head of the Agriculture and Fisheries Team, as well as representatives of Yuen Chau Tsai Village, Luen Yick Fishing Village, Sam Mun Tsai Fishing Village and Yim Tin Tsai West fish farmers. Members could refer to the minutes prepared by the TPRC.
- (ii) The AFCD held a consultation briefing at Tai Po Community Hall on 23 July 2015. The AFCD sent a letter beforehand inviting all licensees of the Yim Tin Tsai FCZ to attend the briefing session, and contacted them by phone whenever possible to remind them to attend the briefing session. A total of 28 fish farmers attended the briefing on that day.
- (iii) The Honourable HO Chun-yin, the legislative councillor of the Agriculture and Fisheries Functional Constituency, was the Chairman and Member of the Aquaculture Sub-committee and Capture Fisheries Sub-committee under the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries respectively. The AFCD had introduced the expansion scheme at the two Sub-committees and sought the views of the two Sub-committees on the scheme.
- (iv) The AFCD briefed the Chairman of Tai Po Yim Tin Tsai West Fisheries Association on 23 June 2015 and one week prior to the meeting about the contents of the scheme and the papers.
- (v) After the fish farmers had voluntarily relocated to a mariculture sub-zone, the locations of fish rafts in the original FCZ would be vacated for one year, allowing the applicants to consider if there was a need to move back to the original site.

If the applicant chose to remain in the sub-zone for operation, the original location of the fish rafts would be open to other fish farmers to apply to the AFCD for relocation according to the established procedures and to be used for fish culture on a continued basis.

- (vi) Under the premise of not increasing the total area of the existing fish rafts, the scheme aimed to improve the operation environment of the FCZ through expanding the total area of fish farms and widening the distance among the existing fish rafts so as to reduce the density of the fish rafts. Therefore, applications for relocating from other FCZs to the proposed sub-zone for operation would not be accepted. If the pilot scheme worked well, the AFCD would consider using the same method to improve the mariculture environment of other overcrowded FCZs.
- (vii) If fish farmers would like to set up water and electricity supply in the proposed sub-zone or introduce the new deep-water net cages for mariculture operation, they could consider applying for funding from the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund. Projects involving commercial elements had a funding ceiling equal to half of the total project expenditure. The cost of a new deep-water net cage was about \$150,000 to \$200,000, which was about the same as the price of a traditional wooden net cage.
- (viii) The proposed sub-zone was small in area. The consultancy study had assessed the technical and environmental feasibility of the scheme and concluded that the impact of the scheme on other users at sea would be limited.

9. Members' second-round of comments was as follows:

- (i) Mr. CHAN Cho-leung said that the AFCD should consider the representativeness of the fish farmers attending the briefing sessions and consultation meetings, and suggested the AFCD hold a seminar to listen widely to the comments of fish farmers in Tai Po District on Government's fisheries policies. In addition, he suggested the AFCD issue additional temporary mariculture licences to applicants eligible for relocation to the mariculture sub-zone as an encouragement.
- (ii) Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that it had been almost two years since the AFCD consulted the Agriculture and Fisheries Team of the TPRC in September 2015. The AFCD should consult the TPRC's Executive Committee again. In addition, she believed that only 28 fish farmers attending the briefing might not fully represent the opinions of most of the fish farmers. She suggested the AFCD consult the ATRC again after making personal contact with the parties concerned.

10. The Chairman concluded that the ATRC would neither support nor oppose the scheme for

the time being, and suggested the AFCD listen to Members' views and carry out further consultation with the parties concerned before reporting to the ATRC again.

### **III. Demand from the Shuen Wan Constituency for the Government to deal with incidents of wild pigs disturbing local residents**

(TPDC Papers No. ATR 20/2017, ATR 29/2017 and ATR 32/2017)

11. The Chairman welcomed Mr. SHEK Chung-tong, Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement) of the AFCD to the meeting for the discussion of this agenda item.

12. Dr. LAU Chee-sing introduced TPDC Paper No. ATR 20/2017. He said that a number of villages in the Shuen Wan Constituency of Tai Po were often disturbed by wild pigs, with some residents complaining that there were often groups of wild pig knocking over the roadside rubbish bins for food and endangering traffic safety. Someone had also illegally fed the wild pigs and there were also incidents of wild pigs injuring people. He urged the departments concerned to follow up on the matter.

13. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Mr. Rex LI said that the rubbish bins in Che Ha Village and Sai Keng Village in the rural areas of Tai Po and Sai Kung North were often knocked over by wild animals. He suggested the TPDO to improve the facilities of the rural area refuse collection points with resources from the District-led Actions Scheme.
- (ii) Mr. KWAN Wing-yip, referring to the feeding of wild pigs by someone as a way to allow them to integrate into the community so as to reduce the nuisance to residents, asked whether such act was illegal. He also enquired whether there were any problems with monkeys and pigeons in Tai Po District.
- (iii) Mr. Francis YAM asked how the departments concerned handled the wild pig nuisances in the past and whether the Police and hunting teams with licences would participate in the hunting of wild pigs. He would also like to know about the AFCD's opinion of accidental injury to pedestrians or other animals by the traps set up by residents.
- (iv) Mr. Patrick TANG enquired whether wild pigs were protected animals and whether the Government would consider keeping those captured or sterilising them. He continued to ask why the Government advocated keeping the existing wild pigs so that they would continue to disturb the residents if it sterilised them. He also wished to know the reproduction rate of wild pigs and whether the AFCD would predict when the wild pigs would become a natural disaster because of their huge quantity.

- (v) Mr. TAM Wing-fun, Eric asked how the AFCD would deal with the problem of wild pigs scavenging for food at refuse collection points.
- (vi) Mr. CHU King-yuen argued that the source of wild pig nuisance was that residents had failed to properly dispose of food, thus attracting the wild pigs to the residential area for food. He suggested the AFCD step up its public education efforts so that students and the general public could understand that failure to handle refuse properly would lead to wild pig nuisance and the consequences could be serious.
- (vii) Mr. CHOW Yuen-wai said wild pigs were not too aggressive. Hunting them would give rise to serious repercussions in society. He believed that it would be more humane for the AFCD to sterilise them.

14. Mr. SHEK introduced TPDC Paper No. ATR 29/2017 and responded as follows:

- (i) Wild pigs were common animals in Hong Kong and they usually lived in the woodlands. Since some of the areas in Tai Po District were adjacent to the woodlands in the rural areas, some wild pigs would be attracted by people's feeding or disposed food. As a result, they might approach the urban areas or residential areas for food, which might cause nuisance to the residents. With regards to the frequent appearance of wild pigs in the Shuen Wan area in Tai Po, the AFCD, after investigation, found that the wild pigs approached the residents as a result of people's feeding and the disposed food in the trash, and causing nuisance to nearby residents and environmental hygiene problems.
- (ii) Generally speaking, the AFCD would first obtain the details of the case from the complainant upon receiving a complaint of nuisance caused by wild pigs, and would advise the property management companies concerned, villagers or government departments concerned to take appropriate precautionary measures, including removing the food sources of wild pigs, so as to reduce their nuisance to the residents.
- (iii) If the AFCD's investigations revealed that the wild pigs damaged villagers' properties or threatened their personal safety on a continued basis, and the proposed precautionary measures did not work, it would consider arranging for capture operations. At present, the AFCD had begun monitoring the wild pigs in Wai Ha Village and Che Ha Village and would arrange for capture operations.
- (iv) The AFCD would adopt an "anaesthesia then relocation" approach to allow wild pigs to return to the countryside. In general, during the capture of wild pigs, the AFCD veterinarians would administer anaesthetic to them in a safe manner to facilitate their capture. If circumstances permitted, the wild pigs captured would be released in the remote countryside areas. The AFCD was using satellite

tracking technologies to study their activities and relocation routes after release and found out that most of them remained in the country parks after release.

- (v) On education, the AFCD would distribute pamphlets to the public explaining the habits of wild pigs, the problems caused by feeding them and the ways to avoid wild pig nuisance, etc. Large banners and posters were put up at suitable locations to remind residents not to feed stray or wild animals.
- (vi) To control the number of wild pigs in the long run, the AFCD would introduce a contraceptive for mammals in mid-2017 as a pilot programme to control their number in the long run. The AFCD was consulting the relevant experts and groups as regards the pilot programme, and was finalising the details of the pilot programme. The AFCD would set up a working group inviting the relevant stakeholders (including the FEHD) and local experts to advise on ways to improve the design of rubbish bins and refuse collection points, so as to reduce the occurrence of wild pigs scavenging for food at the outdoor refuse collection points. The AFCD would step up its communication and collaboration with the FEHD so as to deal with wild pig nuisance cases more effectively.
- (vii) The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance prohibited visitors from feeding wild animals at the main habitats of wild monkeys, including Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, etc. However, feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) outside the no-feed zone was not in violation of the above ordinance. The AFCD would refer the cases to the FEHD for follow-up action if anyone had caused hygiene problems by feeding wild animals in public places.

15. Mr. CHAN Yiu-wa, Andrew, the FEHD representative, introduced the paper submitted at the meeting (TPDC Paper No. ATR 32/2017 referred) and responded as follows:

- (i) Regarding wild pigs climbing on the roadside rubbish bins scavenging for food, the FEHD would install metal poles at the roadside of Wai Ha Village in the next two months and fasten the rubbish bins to the metal poles with chain links to prevent any further incidents of wild pigs knocking them down. In addition, the FEHD was looking for contractors to produce monkey-proof rubbish bins and their production was expected to complete in the coming months.
- (ii) The FEHD would issue a fixed penalty ticket to anyone who did not clean up the feed after feeding the wild pigs as it was equivalent to littering.

16. Members' second-round of comments was as follows:

- (i) Mr. Patrick TANG noted that someone said that the reason why local wild pigs often ate tree roots was because they reproduced way too quickly, resulting in a

shortage of food. In his opinion, the number of protected animals would keep increasing. Therefore, the AFCD should actively carry out “capture, sterilisation and relocation” campaign so as to prevent future casualties or deaths due to wild pig nuisance.

- (ii) Dr. LAU Chee-sing pointed out that the wild pigs in Wai Ha Village were breeding very quickly and they often knocked down the roadside rubbish bins, affecting the living environment and traffic safety of residents. He asked the AFCD to arrange for hunting operations to capture the wild pigs as soon as possible. In addition, he found the monkey-proof rubbish bins mentioned by the FEHD too small for large rubbish, which would in turn make residents dispose of rubbish beside the monkey-proof rubbish bins.
- (iii) Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen said wild pigs were large and dangerous animals. Therefore, the AFCD should hunt them appropriately or study new methods to sterilise them. He hoped that the AFCD would allow TPDC Members to join the working group mentioned so that they could provide the FEHD with information on rural environments and wild pigs’ habits, etc. In addition, he criticised the ineffectiveness of the AFCD’s wild monkey sterilisation programme.
- (iv) Mr. LAU Yung-wai wanted to know whether feeding of wild pigs was legal and whether anyone in Hong Kong had licences to feed wild pigs.
- (v) Mr. CHAN Cho-leung pointed out that wild pigs were aggressive. Therefore, the Government should take precautions to reduce their number as soon as possible to prevent the problem of wild pig nuisance from deteriorating.
- (vi) Mr. KWAN Wing-yip was concerned about the causes of the ineffectiveness of the wild monkey sterilisation programme.
- (vii) Mr. Rex LI, the Vice-chairman, hoped that the AFCD could provide the total number of wild pigs in Hong Kong.

17. Mr. SHEK responded as follows:

- (i) Wild pigs were not protected animals in Hong Kong and the AFCD would not issue any licence to anyone to feed them. Although it is not illegal for members of the public to feed wild pigs, it was an offense under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance to use any hunting appliance to capture them.
- (ii) According to the AFCD’s studies, wild pigs’ main natural foodstuffs were rhizomes and insects beneath the soil surface. Therefore, traces of soil digging by wild pigs in the country parks did not reflect their shortage of food.
- (iii) The reproduction rate of wild pigs depended on the amount of food available. If

they were fed regularly, they would produce a large number of offspring. The AFCD had been taking various initiatives in controlling the number of wild pigs since 2016, and monitored wild pigs' ecology in major country parks using infra-red instruments. The FEHD was analysing the data collected.

- (iv) The FEHD sterilised a large number of macaques in country parks in 2007 and commissioned contractors in 2009 to fully monitor the number of macaques. Since 2009, the number of macaques in Hong Kong had dropped by more than 30%, and its reproduction rate had dropped from the annual increase of 60% in the past to less than 30%. The AFCD had to sterilise the macaques in batches. To date, more than 80% of the female macaques had undergone permanent sterilisation, and the initiative was effective. However, macaques would still approach the residential areas because of feeding by members of the public.

(Post-meeting note: The AFCD supplemented that monkeys were mainly found in the countryside of country parks, but could also be found in nearby areas such as Sha Tin District. However, monkeys might lose their human-fearing nature and even take food from passers-by if they had got used to being fed or looking for food in the residential areas. For these blackspots with frequent monkey nuisance, the FEHD would liaise with the property management offices nearby and arrange for technical demonstrations and lectures to teach them ways to deal with and prevent monkey nuisance.)

18. Mr. CHAN responded that the monkey-proof rubbish bins could only replace the common roadside rubbish bins and were not intended to collect household refuse of members of the public.

19. The Chairman asked the departments concerned to liaise with Members to answer their other questions concerning wild pig nuisance.

**IV. Report on the assistance provided for the agricultural industry by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and matters concerning the mariculture industry in March and April 2017**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 21/2017)

**(I) Assistance provided for the agricultural industry by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department**

20. Mr. Wilson WU introduced Appendix I to the captioned paper and reported as follows:

- (i) Over the past two months, the AFCD provided a total of 183 free farm machinery lending services and held seven technical seminars with a total of 246 participants.
- (ii) The AFCD held a briefing on the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund in Kam Tin on 8 April 2017 to explain the details of application to farmers.
- (iii) The Local Organic Watermelon Festival would be held at Tai Po Farmers' Market from 30 June to 1 July 2017.

21. The Chairman said that he would contact the AFCD after the meeting about the new farmers' enquires about the free farm machinery lending services.

**(II) Matters concerning the mariculture industry**

22. Mrs. STEWART Pik-ha, Sara introduced Appendix II to the captioned paper and reported as follows:

- (i) Between March and April 2017, the AFCD received one fish disease report in Tap Mun FCZ affecting 1 500 rabbit fish. Testing showed that the fish gills had symptoms of gas bubble disease. The bacteria were isolated and identified as *Streptococcus Iniae* and *Photobacterium Damselae*. After the AFCD had recommended to fish farmers on ways to deal with them and improve the mariculture environment, the conditions of the FCZ had improved.
- (ii) The AFCD received three red tide reports during the same period in Hoi Ha Wan, Tung Ping Chau and Yung Shue Au FCZs respectively. The three red tides were all formed by the common and non-toxic *Gonyaulax Polygramma*. The AFCD had reminded the fish farmers concerned to pay attention to the condition of the fish rafts and pump in oxygen in a timely manner, and no fish death report had been received during the period.
- (iii) 116 fish farms had successfully applied to be classified as accredited fish farms and 35 of them were located in Tai Po District.

23. Members did not have any comments or questions.

**V. Report on the quantity of refuse collected from the Tolo Harbour in March and April 2017 by the Marine Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (TPDC Papers No. ATR 22/2017 and ATR 23/2017)**

24. Mr. CHAN Lap-wai reported that the MD collected 14.8 tonnes and 15 tonnes of floating refuse in the inner waters of Tai Po District in March and April 2017 respectively.

25. Mr. Andrew CHAN reported that the FEHD collected 2.257 tonnes and 1.679 tonnes of coastal refuse at Tolo Harbour in March and April 2017 respectively, and cleared 0.58 tonnes and 0.54 tonnes of refuse at Lam Tsuen River respectively.

26. Mr. LAU Yung-wai thanked the FEHD for providing information on the amount of refuse cleared at Lam Tsuen River.

**VI. Report on the response to community activities held in March and April 2017 and the planned community activities to be held in May and June 2017 in Tai Po by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 24/2017)

27. Ms. NG Wing-yin introduced Appendix I to the captioned paper and reported as follows:

- (i) The LCSD organised 89 activities in March and April 2017 with a total of 1 844 participants.
- (ii) The LCSD planned to organise 142 activities in May and June 2017. Major activities included the lawn bowling league, etc., with an expected number of participants of around 3 212.
- (iii) The Opening Ceremony of the 6th Hong Kong Games (“HKG”) was successfully held on 23 April and eight inter-district sports competitions took place from 23 April to 28 May. At present, only the track and field events had been completed, and the Tai Po District team had won three medals including two gold and one silver.
- (iv) The Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony of the HKG would be held at Kowloon Park Sports Centre on 28 May. The Organising Committee for the HKG had sent a letter inviting the Chairmen, delegations and cheerleading teams of the 18 DCs to attend the ceremony.

28. Ms. May TSANG introduced Annexes A to E of Appendix II to the captioned paper.

29. Mr. NG Chi-keung, Barry introduced Annexes 1 and 2 of Appendix III to the captioned paper. He reported that between March and April 2017, the LCSD organised 73 promotional activities in Tai Po Public Library with 60 597 participants in total. In May 2017, the LCSD would host a series of Subject Talks cum Guided Tours of Follow the Historic Buildings and Learn the History of Tai Po sponsored by the TPDC, introducing the customs and practices of

Tai Po and the buildings preserved to date.

30. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Mr. AU Chun-wah said that Tai Po athletes' performance in the HKG was below expectation, and no athletes participated in some swimming as well as track and field events. He asked whether there was a problem with the athletes' selection mechanism, or whether the participation was dominated by big sports or swimming clubs. He suggested the LCSD discuss with Tai Po Sports Association ("TPSA") on the major sports disciplines for training so that Tai Po athletes would do well in the next HKG.
- (ii) Mr. LAU Yung-wai enquired about the reason for low attendance of the Tai Chi Made Easy classes and badminton training courses in March and April. He also asked how the LCSD increased the usage of the newly-opened Black Box Theatre in Tai Po Civic Centre and suggested that the LCSD report the figures to the ATRC and arrange for a site visit for Members. In addition, he said that while seats for the Subject Talks of Follow the Historic Buildings and Learn the History of Tai Po were still available, the Guided Tours were full very quickly. He asked whether the LCSD would increase the places of the guided tours.
- (iii) Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that there were limited sports venues in Tai Po District resulting in the local athletes training with sports or swimming clubs in other districts. In addition, some elite Tai Po athletes had been selected to train at the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") in Sha Tin. Therefore, they might represent Sha Tin District in territory-wide competitions. She opined that the LCSD should focus on the above issues and nurture more Tai Po residents to become elite athletes.
- (iv) Mr. LO Hiu-fung believed that the LCSD should increase the facilities in the district and strengthen school training. He also suggested that the LCSD should conduct post-competition reviews with the athletes so as to find ways to improve and enhance the competitiveness of athletes in the district.

31. Ms. NG responded as follows:

- (i) There were still a number of competitions underway in the HKG. Tai Po district team had qualified for the quarter-finals in four competitions so far.
- (ii) A total of 18 athletes represented the Tai Po District swimming team in this HKG. The LCSD selected these athletes to represent Tai Po District based on their past performances in the open swimming competitions. The LCSD would later review the competition rules and strategies of Tai Po District athletes of this HKG

and hoped to achieve better results in the next HKG.

- (iii) The LCSD and the TPSA had been promoting district sports in different ways. In addition, the LCSD would subsidise various sports associations and community sports clubs to promote and develop local sports. The LCSD had also carried out School Sports Programmes for the sports associations to promote sports activities at schools. In conjunction with the daily operation of schools, students from primary, secondary and special schools in Hong Kong could take part in diversified sports training during their spare time where potential athletes could be identified.
- (iv) Elite athletes from the 18 districts would be selected for intensive training at the HKSI and then picked for the Hong Kong team. Therefore, it was inevitable that the elite athletes could be regarded as representing Sha Tin District.
- (v) She did not have detailed information on the Tai Chi Made Easy classes and badminton training courses yet and would reply to Members' enquiries after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Tai Po District team performed very well at this HKG. The awards won included the District with Impressive Progress award in swimming competitions, the District with the Best Progress award and the District with the Most Gold Medals award. A total of 22 medals, including 12 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze had been won. In addition, the LCSD had contacted Mr. LAU Yung-wai after the meeting to explain the reasons for the low attendance of the Tai Chi Made Easy classes and badminton training courses and said that it would step up its promotion efforts for these training classes and courses.)

32. Ms. TSANG responded as follows:

- (i) Tai Po Civic Centre began accepting rental applications for Black Box Theatre in March 2017. The activities shown in the paper were arranged by the LCSD as trial events. According to the application procedures, the LCSD accepted bookings seven months prior to the rental month. In other words, the LCSD was reviewing the rental applications for Black Box Theatre in October 2017. To raise the usage rate of Black Box Theatre, the LCSD would also accept renting applications if there were timeslots available before October. The LCSD could report the usage rate of Black Box Theatre in July 2017. However, the full picture of the rental situation could only be shown in the report for the usage rate in October.
- (ii) The LCSD held two demonstration events for Black Box Theatre between April

and May 2017 to promote the theatre's facilities and invited representatives from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, professional arts groups, non-governmental organisations, local organisations and amateur arts groups to participate.

- (iii) Compared with other black box theatres of the same category, the usage rate of Black Box Theatre at Tai Po Civic Centre at the beginning was satisfactory. The LCSD welcomed Members to visit Black Box Theatre and would arrange for follow-up action.

33. Mr. NG responded that the attendance rate of library talks was generally 90% or above, while guided tours were always well-received by members of the public. However, the LCSD had to deploy staff for crowd management. Therefore, the number of participants for each guided tour should not be too many. The LCSD would be happy to host more activities of the same category if resources permitted.

## **VII. Vetting of district minor work project proposals to be recommended to the District Facilities Management Committee**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 25/2017)

34. The Chairman welcomed Ms. Lisa YIP, Liaison Officer (7) of the TPDO to the meeting for the discussion of this agenda item.

35. The Chairman said that the District Facilities Management Committee ("DFMC") would invite DC Members to submit minor work project proposals each year. Among the work project proposals submitted by DC Members this year, 13 had to be examined by the ATRC to decide whether to recommend them to the DFMC's Working Group on District Works ("WGDW") for consideration and according priority.

36. The Chairman reported that the LCSD had advised that in the TPDC Paper No. ATR 25/2017, the project schedule for item (10) should be the 2017/18 financial year.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had amended the information for item (10) in the TPDC Paper No. ATR 25/2017.)

37. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that she would like to revise her proposed project as provision of pedestrian cover at Kwong Fuk Sitting-out Area in Area 24 to connect with the bus stops, and the project would be discussed by the committees concerned.

38. The Secretary said that if the ATRC agreed in principle with the above project proposals,

the ATRC could consider recommending the proposals concerned to the DFMC's WGDW first, and then discuss the classification of the project proposals, etc. within the WGDW.

39. Mr. LAU Yung-wai enquired that he had previously written to the TPDO regarding the barriers of the tree near Tai Po Jockey Club General Out-patient Clinic. He would like to know which department was responsible for following up on the matter.

40. Ms. YIP said that as district minor work projects had been conducted at the location above, the TPDO Works Section would follow up on the improvement works concerned.

41. Upon discussion, the ATRC agreed to recommend the aforesaid 13 project proposals to the DFMC's WGDW.

### **VIII. Allocation of DC Funds to the ATRC in 2017/18**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 26/2017)

42. The Chairman said that at the meeting on 4 May 2017, the TPDC approved the funding of \$9,792,000 to the ATRC for the 2017-18 financial year (including surplus funding of \$502,000), on the assumption that the TPDC was to be allocated additional funding of \$5 million for 2017/18. Details of the estimated funding allocation had been set out in TPDC Paper No. ATR 26/2017.

43. The Chairman said that the allocation for the long-term training programmes for Tai Po athletes this year would be increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000 (including surplus funding of \$18,000). Organisations that had previously applied for badminton and football training had all submitted funding applications for continuing with the training programmes.

44. Members did not have any comments or questions regarding the aforesaid training programmes.

45. The Chairman asked Members to propose training programmes and hosting organisations later on for the additional \$100,000 funding allocation for the above item.

### **IX. Report of working group**

46. Mr. Eric TAM, Chairman of the Working Group on Promotion and Publicity, reported as follows:

- (i) The Working Group did not hold any meeting recently.

- (ii) The Tin Hau Festival Procession in Tai Po co-organised by the Working Group and the Tai Po Old Market Tin Hau Temple Social Event Control Committee was successfully held on 16 April 2017. In addition, the promotional umbrellas produced by the Working Group in 2016/17 had all been distributed.
- (iii) At the meeting on 4 May 2017, the TPDC resolved to approve the funding of \$451,000 to the Working Group on Promotion and Publicity of the TPDC (including surplus funding of \$25,000), on the assumption that the TPDC was to be allocated additional funding of \$5 million for 2017/18. The Working Group would meet to discuss the proposed production of promotional materials for the year.
- (iv) Funding for the promotion of the local economy had been increased to \$300,000 this year (including surplus funding of \$18,000). The ATRC had allocated \$200,000 for organising the Tin Hau Festival Procession in Tai Po. The Secretariat would later write to the organisations and educational institutions in the district inviting them to organise activities to promote the local economy as regards the additional funding of \$100,000. He asked Members to submit the proposed activities and hosting organisations to the Secretariat before 22 May.
- (v) An additional allocation of \$60,000 (including surplus funding of \$4,000) was allocated to the Working Group for the expenditure on the Tai Po Fun mobile app. The Working Group had submitted funding applications for the renewal of maintenance services and developer account services of the Tai Po Fun mobile app. The Secretariat would later write to the organisations in the district inviting them to promote the Tai Po Fun mobile app. He invited Members to submit the proposed publicity programmes and hosting organisations before 22 May.

47. Mr. AU Chun-wah said that the Tin Hau Festival Procession in Tai Po activity had led to congestions on Kwong Fuk Road and Po Heung Bridge, and delayed the operation of public buses. He hoped that the Tai Po Old Market Tin Hau Temple Social Event Control Committee would re-consider the procession route with the departments concerned before hosting the activity next year and proposed changing the route to travel past Tai Wo Road instead.

48. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to convey the above opinion to the organisation concerned.

## **X. Applications for DC Funds**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 27/2017)

49. The Chairman proposed referring to previous practices by splitting the allocation listed under Other Activity Applications of the ATRC in the current financial year into two parts, with

60% for the first half of the financial year (i.e., April to September 2017) and 40% for the second (i.e., October 2017 to March 2018) for local organisations to apply for hosting activities.

50. Members did not have any other comments or questions on the above recommendations.

51. The Chairman invited Members to declare interests regarding the 16 DC Funds applications to be vetted at this meeting where necessary.

52. The Secretary reported as follows:

- (i) Pursuant to Orders 48(9) and 48(10) of the TPDC Standing Orders (“Standing Orders”), a Member should declare interest if he found that he had direct personal interests, pecuniary interests or other interests in an application for DC Funds under consideration, or had links with the benefitted party or the potential benefitted party.
- (ii) The Secretariat had compiled a declaration form (see Annex) based on the information collected. It had set out the links between Members and the hosting, partnering or co-hosting organisations concerned (as indicated by means of different colours whether Members were executors of the activities concerned, or held a substantive or non-substantive position).

53. The Secretary asked Members to check the information contained in the declaration form and make amendments or give supplementary information where necessary. In addition, she also asked Members to declare interests if they had any direct personal interests, pecuniary interests or other interests in the applications for DC Funds under consideration.

54. Members agreed with the information contained on the declaration form.

55. The Chairman indicated that he had declared his links with the hosting organisation of four activities, and the Vice-chairman had also declared his links with the hosting organisation of four activities. Pursuant to Order 48(12) of the Standing Orders, he asked Members who did not declare interests pursuant to Order 48(9) of the Standing Orders to determine if he could speak in relation to the funding application concerned or take part in voting, as well as whether he could remain in or had to withdraw from the meeting.

56. Mr. LAM B said that the Chairman and Vice-chairman held non-substantive positions in the organisations concerned without involving any pecuniary interests or other interests. They could take part in the discussion and resolution of the funding applications of the activities concerned. The Chairman and Vice-chairman held substantive positions in the organisations concerned without involving any pecuniary interests or other interests. They were not required

to withdraw from the meeting while the funding applications concerned were being examined, but should remain silent and abstain from resolution or voting in connection with the funding applications concerned. Nevertheless, they could provide supplementary information where necessary.

57. Members agreed with Mr. LAM B's comments.

58. The Chairman suggested the following:

- (i) Mr. CHU King-yuen was the authorised person of the applicant organisation of Tai Po Children's Choir (II), Chinese Music Class (II) and Integrated Dance Class (II). He should withdraw from the meeting while the funding applications concerned were being examined.
- (ii) As regards other Members who had declared their links with the hosting, partnering or co-hosting organisations concerned, if they held a non-substantive position in the organisations concerned without involving any pecuniary interests or other interests, they could take part in the discussion and resolution of the funding applications concerned. If they held a substantive position in the organisations concerned without involving any pecuniary interests or other interests, they were not required to withdraw from the meeting while the funding applications concerned were being examined, but had to remain silent during the discussion and abstain from resolution or voting in connection with the funding applications concerned. The ATRC, however, could ask them to provide supplementary information where necessary.

59. Members agreed with the Chairman's suggested approach.

60. The Chairman indicated that if Members were satisfied that the 16 funding applications above fell within the ambit of DC Funds, they could consider endorsing the applications.

**(I) Two funding applications submitted by Tai Po Sports Association**

61. The Chairman reminded that the declaration of interests forms showed that three Members (i.e., Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, Mr. Rex LI, the Vice-chairman and Mr. CHU King-yuen) held substantive positions in the organisation concerned. They had to remain silent during the discussion and abstain from resolution or voting in connection with the funding applications concerned. The ATRC, however, could ask them to provide supplementary information where necessary.

62. As regards the funding application for Tai Po Sports Association – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tai Po Volleyball Invitation Cup Tournament (2017-2018), Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Mr. LAU Yung-wai pointed out that other organisations had only applied for \$200 of DC Funds to buy an \$800 football. He said that he never cared about the value of balls purchased by organisations, but they could still be used after the activity was over even though they were consumables. In his opinion, DCs should sponsor organisations to host activities rather than increase their assets. Therefore, the ATRC should give equal treatment to all and approve a funding of only \$200 for each volleyball.
- (ii) Mr. AU Chun-wah had reservations about all the participating teams receiving a trophy. As the participants were not limited to those living, working or going to school in Tai Po District, he suggested reducing the funding applied for trophies and medals by one-third. In addition, he hoped to learn more about the registration arrangements for the activity.
- (iii) Mr. Eric TAM said that he had just learned from the internet that the price of volleyball generally used for competition ranged from \$400 to \$800. Some football players had also told him that the price of football generally exceeded \$200. He considered it difficult to compare football with volleyball, and suggested that the TPSA should provide supplementary information on whether it would continue to use the balls when organising district sports events in future. If no, it should return the balls to the DC.
- (iv) Mr. YAM Man-chuen believed that balls could generally be used for two to three years or longer and, therefore, should be re-used. He also asked if these balls were capital goods so that the TPSA would have to return them to the DC after the activity was over. He also mentioned whether the Working Group on Review of Guideline on Allocation of District Council Funds (“Guideline”) would be set up again and held a meeting so that the DC could adjust the amount allocated to the items according to the current prices.
- (v) Mr. WOO Kin-man, Clement said that the balls used for competitions were more expensive in general. The ATRC’s resolution would only affect the amount the organisation would have to pay but not the specifications of the items it had to purchase. Therefore, he suggested the ATRC consider approving the funding allocation of \$400 for each volleyball. Referring to the funding application of \$1,400 by the organisation for the production of eight trophies, he said that the price per trophy was not expensive on average.
- (vi) Mr. Patrick TANG said that he had no links with the TPSA. In his view, the DC sponsored organisations to organise activities so as to promote sports, and funding should be increased to improve the activities. He said that the

organisation was probably affected by a DC funding case not long ago when it applied for a funding of just \$200 to purchase balls, and it did not mean that it only needed a funding of \$200 in reality. Therefore, the ATRC should consider different funding applications on a case by case basis. To avoid controversy, he proposed setting a funding ceiling for balls. He also asked whether the organisation's expenditures would be reimbursed on an accountable basis.

- (vii) Ms. WONG Pik-kiu believed that the DC only allocating \$200 each for the purchase of all kinds of balls by the organisation might not be able to effectively encourage the organisation to groom people in Tai Po District to be elite athletes. She demanded that the organisation should set out the required specifications on the application form for Members' reference if it applied for funding of more than \$200 for every ball in future. She also suggested that the funding application papers should be sorted by organisations so that Members could easily compare the applications of the same organisation.
- (viii) The Chairman said that if Members had any comments on the amount of funding allocation for balls, they could join the Working Group on Review of the Guideline and put forward the comments concerned at the Working Group meetings. In his opinion, the ATRC should consider the funding allocation according to the Guideline currently in force.

63. The Secretary provided supplementary information as follows:

- (i) The organisation purchased volleyballs according to the criteria of the Volleyball Association of Hong Kong ("VBAHK"). The price of volleyballs used in the previous competition was \$420 each. The organisation pointed out that the competition was held every two years and the volleyballs used last time were damaged and could not be used anymore. Therefore, it was necessary to purchase new ones.
- (ii) The amount in this funding application for trophies and medals did not exceed the ceiling of the Guideline.
- (iii) There would be a total of eight teams in the competition, where four teams were in the "Open" category and the remaining four the "Designated" category. The organisation planned to invite the winners of the previous competition (one men team and one women team) and the home teams (one men team and one women team) to participate.
- (iv) According to the Manual on the Use of DC Funds issued by the HAD, capital items referred to equipment with a unit price of over \$1,000, and the organisations had to keep them properly. Items below the value of \$1,000 would not be regarded as capital items, and the DCs did not have to monitor how

the organisations handle the items after the activities.

- (v) At the previous meeting of the Working Group on Review of the Guideline in December 2016, the Guideline was revised according to Members' comments in the past. Due to the constantly changing prices, the ATRC had to consider whether it was necessary to meet again in six months.
- (vi) The organisation's expenditures were reimbursed on an accountable basis.
- (vii) The funding application papers were arranged according to the DC accounts. As the organisation concerned applied for funding under the "District Recreation and Sports Activities" and the "Long Term Training Programmes for Tai Po District Athletes" at the same time, the paper therefore had set out the two applications separately.

64. As the activity would take place in August, the Chairman asked Members to vote on the funding amount for the volleyballs, trophies and medals in this funding application at the meeting.

65. A total of six Members (including Mr. AU Chun-wah, Mr. CHOW Yuen-wai, Mr. KWAN Wing-yip, Mr. LAU Yung-wai, Mr. Francis YAM and Mr. YAM Man-chuen) supported the funding allocation of \$200 each for the organisation to buy volleyballs, five Members (including Mr. Rex LI, Mr. LO Hiu-fung, Mr. Eric TAM, Mr. Clement WOO and Ms WONG Pik-kiu) supported the funding allocation of \$400 each, while Mr. Patrick TANG abstained. The ATRC eventually resolved to allocate a funding of \$200 for each volleyball (the total funding amount of this item was \$800).

66. A total of six Members (including Mr. AU Chun-wah, Mr. CHOW Yuen-wai, Mr. KWAN Wing-yip, Mr. LAU Yung-wai, Mr. Francis YAM and Mr. YAM Man-chuen) supported deducting the amount of funding application for trophies and medals by one-third, four Members (including Mr. LO Hiu-fung, Mr. Eric TAM, Mr. Clement WOO and Ms. WONG Pik-kiu) objected to the deduction, while Mr. Patrick TANG and Mr. Rex LI abstained. The ATRC eventually resolved to deduct the amount of funding application for trophies and medals by one-third (the total amount of funding allocation for trophies and medals were \$933 and \$1,056 respectively).

67. The ATRC resolved to allocate \$16,035 to the TPSA for organising the Tai Po Sports Association – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tai Po Volleyball Invitation Cup Tournament (2017-2018).

(Post-meeting note: The TPSA responded that it would purchase the volleyballs to be used for the competition according to the VBAHK's requirements so as to match the players' level. After the competition, the organisation would keep the volleyballs in the warehouse for the next competition. Based on

experience, however, keeping them for too long would lead to air leakage or reduce their bounciness, making them unsuitable for competition and thus requiring the purchase of new ones. As the afore-mentioned activity was aimed at promoting the sport of volleyball, big prizes could effectively attract teams to sign up, so as to achieve the purpose of skills exchange and volleyball promotion.)

68. Regarding the funding application for the Tai Po Sports Association – 27<sup>th</sup> Tai Po Badminton Cup Invitation Inter-Team Tournament (2017-2018), Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Ms. WONG Pik-kiu appreciated the organisation for only applying for \$30 of the DC Funds to produce every guest souvenir, which was less than the amount applied for in the past and such a move was commendable.
- (ii) Mr. AU Chun-wah said that the contestants were not limited to those living, working or going to school in Tai Po District. He suggested deducting the amount of funding application for trophies by one-third.
- (iii) Mr. LAU Yung-wai thanked the organisation for listening to him by increasing the number of teams in the “Open” category from two to four. He also opined that the shuttlecocks wore down very quickly. As such, it was reasonable for the organisation to apply for the purchase of 100 tubes of shuttlecocks.

69. The ATRC resolved to reduce the amount of funding application for trophies by one-third (total amount of funding allocation for the item was \$1,433) and allocate \$39,971 to the TPSA for organising the Tai Po Sports Association – 27<sup>th</sup> Tai Po Badminton Cup Invitation Inter-Team Tournament (2017-2018).

70. The Chairman reported that the expenditure of the afore-mentioned activity would be listed under “District Recreation and Sports Activities” of the ATRC in the 2017-18 financial year.

**(II) Three funding applications submitted by Tai Po District Arts Advancement Association**

71. The Chairman requested Mr. CHU King-yuen to withdraw from the meeting, and the two Members (namely Mr. CHAN Cho-leung and Ms. WONG Pik-kiu) and the Chairman who held substantive positions in the organisation concerned according to the declaration of interests form should remain silent during the discussion and abstain from the resolution or voting concerned. The ATRC, however, could ask them to provide supplementary information where necessary.

72. Mr. AU Chun-wah asked why there were free and paid registration arrangements for Integrated Dance Class (II).

73. The Secretary responded that there were four courses in Integrated Dance Class (II), where one of them was free while the remaining three charged registration fees.

74. The ATRC resolved to:

- (i) allocate \$23,440 to the captioned association for organising Tai Po Children's Choir (II);
- (ii) allocate \$38,900 to the captioned association for organising Chinese Music Class (II); and
- (iii) allocate \$17,574 to the captioned association for organising Integrated Dance Class (II).

75. The Chairman reported that the expenditure of the afore-mentioned activities would be listed under "District Cultural and Arts Programmes" of the ATRC in the 2017-18 financial year.

**(III) Eight funding applications submitted by local organisations**

76. Mr. LAU Yung-wai's questions were as follows:

- (i) Regarding the funding application for the Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR (Integrated Show), he enquired the organisation about the purpose for buying stamps and whether Tai Po Pun Chung Community Education Center should in fact be the venue for ticket distribution.
- (ii) Regarding the funding application for the Delightful Gathering of the Elderly, he asked why the estimated expenditure for venue and equipment rental was different from other applications which also rented Tai Po Civic Centre. He would also like to know why the estimated expenditure for tickets and audience souvenirs were higher compared with other applications.

77. The Secretary responded as follows:

- (i) Organisations would usually send posters to district organisations (such as mutual aid committees) by mail to promote the activities.
- (ii) The Secretariat would follow up on the venue for ticket distribution for the

Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR (Integrated Show).

- (iii) Apart from the venue, the organisation would also rent different equipment (such as sound cables) of Tai Po Civic Centre. As a result, the estimated expenditure for venue and equipment rental would vary for different activities.
- (iv) Audience souvenirs for the Delightful Gathering of the Elderly included oatmeal, vermicelli, towels and ointment. While the cost was slightly higher, the amount of funding applied for by the organisation did not exceed the ceiling of the Guideline. The Secretariat would ask the organisation about the information of tickets after the meeting.

78. The ATRC resolved to:

- (i) allocate \$12,201 to Tai Po Pun Chung Community Education Center Company Limited for organising the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment to the HKSAR (Integrated Show);
- (ii) allocate \$12,930 to Fei Sing CLUB for organising Singing and Dancing Fun Tonight;
- (iii) allocate \$19,460 to Crescendo Charity Club for organising Delightful Gathering of the Elderly;
- (iv) allocate \$12,000 to the Mutual Aid Committee of Tai Ling House Block A for organising Golden Oldies for Senior Citizens 2017;
- (v) allocate \$12,000 to the Mutual Aid Committee of Hang Wo House for organising Cantonese Opera for the Elderly;
- (vi) allocate \$3,480 to the Mutual Aid Committee of Tai Lok House Block B for organising Day Tour with the Ching Chung Koon Fresh and Delightful Vegetarian Feast;
- (vii) allocate \$7,200 to the Residents Association of Tai Po Ming Nga Court for organising Summer Breeze Swimming Day Tour; and
- (viii) allocate \$20,700 to the Wisenice Club for organising 20th Anniversary Handover Celebration cum Carnival to Praise the Kindness of the Parents.

79. The Chairman reported that the expenditure of the afore-mentioned activities would be listed under “Application for Other Activities” of the ATRC in the 2017-18 financial year.

(Post-meeting note: The organisations concerned responded as follows:

- (i) Tai Po Pun Chung Community Education Center Company Limited

said stamps would be purchased for sending the posters and activity programmes by mail, and tickets would be distributed at Tai Po Pun Chung Community Education Center.

- (ii) Crescendo Charity Club said that tickets would be printed on both sides of colour papers so that the estimated expenditure might be higher than other applications.)

**(IV) One funding application submitted by the Working Group on Promotion and Publicity of the ATRC**

80. Mr. LAU Yung-wai would like to know the details of the funding application for the Tai Po Fun Mobile App Maintenance Service and Account Renewal.

81. The Secretary responded the Working Group on Promotion and Publicity was allocated a funding of \$60,000 for the expenditure of Tai Po Fun Mobile App. The funding application was to allow the mobile app's service provider to provide maintenance services and maintain the data management system on a continued basis, and to allow members of the public to download the mobile app on the iOS platform. The balance of the aforesaid funding would be reserved for district organisations to submit funding applications to promote the mobile app.

82. The ATRC resolved to allocate \$29,100 to the Working Group on Promotion and Publicity to pay for the expenditure of Tai Po Fun Mobile App Maintenance Service and Account Renewal.

83. The Chairman reported that the expenditure of the afore-mentioned activity would be listed under "Tai Po Fun Mobile App" of the "Application for Other Activities" in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years.

**(V) Two funding applications regarding the long-term training programme for Tai Po athletes**

84. The Chairman reminded the three Members (namely Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, Mr. LI Kwok-ying and Mr. CHU King-yuen) who held substantive positions in the TPSA, and the two Members who held substantive positions in the Tai Po Football Club ("TPFC") (namely Mr. Eric TAM and Mr. CHU King-yuen) according to the declaration of interests form, that they should remain silent during the discussion and abstain from the resolution or voting concerned. The ATRC, however, could ask them to provide supplementary information where necessary.

85. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Mr. AU Chun-wah would like to forward to the TPSA members of the public's complaints of the unfairness of its badminton player selection system.
- (ii) Regarding the Badminton Training for the Elite Athletes in Tai Po District, Mr. LAU Yung-wai asked the organisation the ways to calculate the number of training sessions the intermediate coaches had to attend, and whether it was necessary to purchase a total of 169 tubes of shuttlecocks for training purpose.
- (iii) Regarding the Football Training for the Elite Athletes in Tai Po District, Mr. LAU Yung-wai asked why there were 26 athletes participating in the training but only 24 sets of athlete uniforms had been made.

86. The Secretary responded as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat conveyed to the TPSA in 2016 about members of the public's complaints. In this funding application, the TPSA would select athletes among those who participated in the last badminton training programme and the secondary school students in Tai Po District to take part in the training programme.
- (ii) Based on past experience, if an advanced badminton coach was on leave, an intermediate coach would attend the training on his behalf. Depending on the training needs of the day, the TPSA would also require advanced and intermediate coaches to attend the training at the same time.
- (iii) Football player uniforms were worn by athletes during matches. As such, not every one of them would be given a set of uniforms.
- (iv) The Secretariat would convey to the TPSA the views on the amount of shuttlecocks purchased.

87. The ATRC resolved to:

- (i) allocate \$100,000 to the TPSA for organising the Badminton Training for the Elite Athletes in Tai Po District; and
- (ii) allocate \$100,000 to the TPFC for organising the Football Training for the Elite Athletes in Tai Po District.

88. The Chairman reported that the expenditure of the afore-mentioned activities would be listed under "Long-Term Training Programme for Tai Po Athletes" of the ATRC in the 2017-18 financial year.

(Post-meeting note: The organisations concerned responded as follows:

- (i) The TPSA said that if a certain number of persons attended the training, an intermediate coach had to be present to ensure the quality and safety of the training. The number of training sessions the intermediate coaches had to attend was calculated based on past experience. In addition, shuttlecocks were consumables and worn down rather quickly. As such, the number of shuttlecocks required for long-term training would increase. The amount of 169 tubes of shuttlecocks required was estimated by the organisation based on last year's usage.
- (ii) The TPFC said that it would produce 24 sets of uniforms for players to put on during matches, and would distribute the uniforms after the training had been completed based on the performance and attendance rate of the 26 players.)

## **XI. Any other business**

(TPDC Paper No. ATR 28/2017)

### Occupational safety and health promotion programmes 2017

89. The Chairman reported that the Occupational Safety and Health Council (“OSHC”) wrote to the Secretariat a few days ago, inviting the TPDC to participate in this year's occupational safety and health programmes (the OSHC would provide a subsidy of \$40,000). He pointed out that the DC had stopped organising the programmes concerned since 2014 and he suggested that the arrangement concerned should remain the same this year.

90. Members agreed with the afore-mentioned suggestion.

## **XII. Date of next meeting**

91. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 14 July 2017 (Friday).

92. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.