

(Translation)

Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (2/2023)

Date: 15 June 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH (Chairman)

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Government Representatives

Mr LEE Soeng-him, Sean	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Mee-sze	Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Fong, Fanny	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2, Environmental Protection Department
Mr HO Kit-ming	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHOY Chi-wai, Ray	Engineer/24 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr KAN King-ming, Victor	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8, Housing Department
Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 3

Mr LI Kai-lun	Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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For discussion of item 4

Mr YAN Tung-hin, Borze	Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3), Water Supplies Department
Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip	Country Parks Officer (West), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry	Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr TSUI Yiu-fung	Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan 2, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr CHOW Kai-shing	Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Gun Club

For discussion of item 5

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department
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Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LI Hongfeng, Ken	Assistant Executive Manager (District Council)2, Tsuen Wan District Office

Absent:

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH  
Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

## The Meeting

### I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 17th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC).

2. The Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”), unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Member(s) could have up to 2 minutes to introduce a paper, and each Member who submitted a paper might make supplementary remarks once. Such a Member could choose to speak after the responses from the representative(s) of government department(s) or make concluding remarks before the end of discussion of the agenda item for up to 2 minutes each time. For each agenda item, except the Member(s) who submitted the paper, Members could only speak once at the meeting. The Chairman would confirm the number of speakers before the discussion. Each Member might speak up to 2 minutes if five or fewer Members spoke on the agenda item and up to 1.5 minutes if more than five Members spoke on the agenda item. The representative(s) from the department(s) concerned might speak up to 2 minutes twice.

### II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 16th Meeting held on 20.4.2023

3. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had received one proposed amendment from Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio prior to this meeting. The proposed amendment was set out in the appendix.

4. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately and whether they endorsed the captioned minutes. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the captioned minutes.

### III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. The Chairman stated that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### IV Item 3: Introduction to Green Burial 2023

(EHCCC Paper No. 9/2023)

6. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The representative from the FEHD responsible for giving responses was Mr LI Kai-lun, Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties (SHI(A&D)SD).

7. SHI(A&D)SD of the FEHD introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:46 p.m.)

8. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he supported the use of electronic means to offer sacrifices and pay tribute to the deceased, and agreed with the idea of green burial. He noted that the FEHD had devoted substantial resources to setting up the Green Burial Central Register. The FEHD had also invited celebrities (such as Professor Sophia CHAN, Mr LAM Hoi-fung and Mr KOT Man-fai) to give Celebrity Quotes and artists (such as Mr KWOK Fung) to produce promotional videos. He enquired whether one commemorative plaque could be mounted for two deceased members of the same family in a Garden of Remembrance (GoR). Besides, he noted that people were currently required to apply for the export of cremated ashes to the Mainland. He enquired whether the Government had laid down any legislation to regulate the storage of cremated ashes in domestic premises, and whether people should submit applications if they wished to do so (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) regarding the FEHD's ferry service for scattering cremated ashes at sea on Saturdays, he enquired whether the number of participants from each family was capped, and whether applicants would need to wait for using the service if they wished to bring quite a number of people on board. He also enquired about the FEHD's criteria for designating the waters to the east of Tung Lung Chau or the south of West Lamma Channel as locations for scattering cremated ashes at sea, and whether the ferry service for scattering cremated ashes at sea might be cancelled due to weather conditions on the day of departure (Mr CHAN Sung-ip); and
- (3) he pointed out that many elderly people began to accept the idea of green burial nowadays. He enquired whether the FEHD would consider increasing the frequency of the ferry service for scattering cremated ashes at sea to, for example, two trips a day. He also enquired whether users of the said ferry service should separately submit applications for mounting commemorative plaques for the deceased in GoRs (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

9. SHI(A&D)SD of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) one commemorative plaque could be used for two deceased persons whose cremated ashes were scattered in the same GoR. A commemorative plaque could not be used for two deceased persons if their cremated ashes were scattered in different GoRs. Moreover, even if the cremated ashes of a

deceased person were stored in a niche and a relative of this deceased person subsequently died and used green funeral services, an application could still be submitted for adding the name of the latter to the plaque of the former's niche by adopting the practice of "remembering without ashes stored", thereby facilitating descendants to pay tribute to both of them;

- (2) according to the existing Private Columbaria Ordinance, no more than 10 containers of cremated ashes could be stored in any domestic premises and each container could contain the cremated ashes of only one person;
- (3) the ferry hired for providing the service for scattering cremated ashes at sea could accommodate 25 families per trip, and each family could bring up to 11 people (including the applicant) on board. The FEHD would make flexible arrangements in a timely manner. During the registration period for the service, some families might have a smaller number of participants and more unoccupied places would thus be made available on the ferry. The FEHD would contact families which had made special requests. Subject to the carrying capacity of the ferry, the FEHD would allocate additional quotas for families which wished to bring more people on board;
- (4) the service of scattering cremated ashes at sea would be carried out in the waters to south of West Lamma Channel during autumn and winter (from October to March in the following year) and in the waters to east of Tung Lung Chau during spring and summer (from April to September) in order to go with the wind and ocean currents. The scattering of cremated ashes at sea would be cancelled if the Hong Kong Observatory issued any Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal or the Red/Black Rainstorm Warning Signal at or before 7:00 a.m. on the day of departure. The FEHD would also pay attention to the arrangements made by the ferry captain in the light of the state of the sea;
- (5) at present, the ferry hired by the FEHD for providing the service for scattering cremated ashes at sea would operate one departure on Saturdays (except general holidays). Owing to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic, it had taken a longer time to process applications from the public in earlier days. The processing time was gradually returning to normal because the COVID-19 epidemic situation had subsided. The FEHD would review the green burial services in a timely manner. It had also commissioned a consultant to conduct the Green Burial Service and Promotion: Design Thinking Consultancy Study (the "Study");
- (6) the FEHD would arrange memorial ferry rides before or after Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival. It would invite people who had used the service for scattering cremated ashes at sea in the past to take ferry rides

to the designated waters and pay tribute to the deceased; and

- (7) additional memorial walls could be constructed in GoRs according to the demand and land supply. At present, there were still vacant spaces on the memorial walls in various GoRs for the public to mount commemorative plaques. Under the existing policy, commemorative plaques could permanently be mounted in GoRs. Users of the service for scattering cremated ashes at sea were not entitled to mount commemorative plaques for the deceased in GoRs. Upon the completion of a cremated-ashes-scattering and memorial ceremony, each family of the deceased would receive a memorial card, on which the name of the deceased as well as the date and location of the scattering of cremated ashes would be printed for memorial purpose. As for the service for scattering cremated ashes in GoRs, about 80 percent of families of the deceased would opt for mounting commemorative plaques, whereas a few of them would not do so. An administration fee of \$90 should be settled for the mounting of a commemorative plaque. The families of the deceased should also prepare commemorative plaques by themselves.

10. The further views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired when the Study would be completed (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and
- (2) he agreed with the promotion of green burial. Also, he enquired whether the current utilisation rate of GoRs had not yet reached 100 percent (the Chairman).

11. SHI(A&D)SD of the FEHD responded that the Study of the FEHD had started in 2022. The consultant would invite and collate views from members of the public, academics and relevant stakeholders. The FEHD anticipated that the Study would be completed in the third quarter of 2023. Moreover, as individual GoRs (such as the GoR in Diamond Hill) were more popular among the public, the FEHD would identify additional locations suitable for providing memorial walls in surrounding areas. Citing the GoR in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun as an example of GoRs set up more recently, he said that about 1 200 out of around 20 000 places for mounting commemorative plaques had been filled.

V Item 4: Follow-up on the Issue Concerning the Unremoved Shooting Activity Scraps at Route Twisk

(EHCCC Paper No. 10/2023)

12. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr LAU Cheuk-yu. As Mr LAU Cheuk-yu was unable to attend the meeting, he had asked Mr LUK Ling-chung,

Antonio to introduce the paper on his behalf. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr YAN Tung-hin, Borze, Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3) (E/NTW (H3)), Water Supplies Department (WSD);
- (2) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (3) Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip, Country Parks Officer (West) (CPO(W)), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (4) Miss LEUNG Mee-size, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1 (CHI(TW)1), FEHD;
- (5) Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry, Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO);
- (6) Mr TSUI Yiu-fung, Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan 2 (ES/TW2), DLO; and
- (7) Mr CHOW Kai-shing, Honorary Secretary (HS), Hong Kong Gun Club (HKGC).

Besides, the written replies of the Hong Kong Police Force and the Land Registry (LR) were tabled at the meeting.

13. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio introduced the paper.

14. E/NTW (H3) of the WSD responded that the WSD's staff had continued to inspect the catchment and slopes near the HKGC. It had also regularly spot-checked and monitored water samples therefrom. While noting that the HKGC had carried out clearance work, the WSD had still identified shooting activity scraps on the slopes. The WSD therefore urged the HKGC to step up the clearance work again. Also, the WSD would continue to collect evidence and review the arrangements for evidence collection, thereby monitoring whether the HKGC was in breach of the Waterworks Ordinance. The WSD would take appropriate actions if it found any non-compliance of the HKGC with the Waterworks Ordinance. Besides, the WSD would continue to closely work with other departments concerned.

15. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the HKGC had already been in operation at the premises concerned before the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance took effect. The HKGC was exempted from the requirement of applying for an environmental permit, and was therefore not subject to legislations related to the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Nevertheless, the EPD would continue to provide the DLO with technical advice on soil sampling and testing, thereby assisting the DLO in its follow-up according to the land lease conditions.

16. CPO(W) of the AFCD responded that the AFCD's staff had continued to inspect the overlapping area of the HKGC and the country park as well as nearby slopes. During a recent inspection in May 2023, the AFCD's staff had still found a large quantity of shooting activity scraps at the above locations. The AFCD's staff would continue to conduct inspections and closely work with other departments concerned.

17. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the location in question was not managed by the FEHD because it was situated in the country park.

18. ES/TW2 of the DLO responded that the DLO had been conducting on-site inspections on a regular basis. The latest on-site inspection had been conducted in mid-April 2023. The DLO noted that the HKGC had carried out clearance work. Yet, shooting activity scraps had still been found at the locations concerned, and the clearance work had not been conducted to the satisfaction of all the departments concerned. In this connection, the DLO's warning letters issued to the HKGC with respect to the lot concerned had still been registered at the LR (commonly known as "imposing an encumbrance").

19. HS of the HKGC responded that the HKGC had all along been allocating considerable resources to the clearance of shooting activity scraps. Since the HKGC had operated for a long time, shooting activity scraps had been accumulated in quantities, including fragments of clay targets, plugs of shotgun bullets, and shotgun bullets. The first two kinds of scraps had mostly been cleared. Due to the geographical complexity of the slopes, it would be more difficult to clean up shotgun bullets. Having said that, the HKGC would continue to follow up on the clearance work. The HKGC had awarded a new cleaning contract at its meeting on 28 May 2023. The HKGC would communicate with the cleansing contractor to locate shooting activity scraps. It anticipated that the clearance work would commence between July and August 2023.

20. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he was discontented with the current performance of the HKGC in respect of its clearance of shooting activity scraps. He believed that the HKGC was capable of devoting more resources to handling shooting activity scraps, and that it should take on the responsibility of the clearance work. He hoped that the HKGC would regularly report to the EHCCC on the progress of the clearance work and provide photos as evidence. He enquired whether the licence renewal of the HKGC would be subject to legislations stipulated by the EPD (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and

- (2) he hoped that all the departments concerned would closely work together and act in accordance with the law, thereby protecting the interests and health of local residents. He enquired whether the HKGC continued to operate at present, and hoped that some government departments would answer the captioned enquiry (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

21. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the legislation cited by the EPD above was unrelated to the licence of the HKGC. Since the HKGC had already been in operation before the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance came into effect, it was not regulated by this Ordinance. However, it did not mean that the HKGC was not subject to legislations enforced by other departments.

22. HS of the HKGC responded that the HKGC was still in operation at present. The HKGC had a total of five shooting ranges, two of which were used for shooting activities involving clay targets. As these trap shooting ranges had ceased operation since July 2020, no trap shooting activity scraps had been generated by the HKGC for about three years. The other three shooting ranges were used for shooting activities involving handguns and rifles. Paper targets would be used in shooting activities with handguns and rifles, and only one bullet would be fired in each shot. Besides, there were walls constructed at the ranges for blocking bullets. For these reasons, no bullets would fall onto the slopes and no fragments of clay targets would be newly generated.

23. The Chairman pointed out that according to the written reply from the Police, the HKGC held a valid licence and was therefore still in operation. He hoped that the HKGC would continue to proactively clear shooting activity scraps.

VI Item 5: Request for the Government to Allocate Additional Manpower Resources to the Buildings Department and Environmental Protection Department to Expedite the Resolution of the Problem of Foul Water Pipe Misconnection  
(EHCCC Paper No. 11/2023)

24. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (SBS/D5), Buildings Department (BD); and
- (2) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD.

Besides, the written reply of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau was tabled at the meeting.

25. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio introduced the paper.
26. SBS/D5 of the BD responded that the BD's manpower would increase in 2023. The additional headcounts included one senior officer responsible for coordinating all cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings in the territory, as well as two teams comprising professional grade and technical grade staff who were responsible for carrying out the related duties. The EPD had made an application under the Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE) and created these new posts accordingly.
27. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) in response to one of the highlights announced in the 2023 Policy Address for enhancing the water quality of coastal waters at various locations (including Tsuen Wan), the Water Policy Division under the EPD had successfully applied for creating new posts through the RAE. The senior coordinating officer mentioned by the BD's representative had taken office in May 2023. This officer was responsible for following up and investigating matters related to foul water pipe misconnection in buildings; and
  - (2) the EPD had continued to conduct inspections of the sources of pollution in Tsuen Wan and endeavoured to control and intercept pollutants at source, thereby preventing them from being discharged into the stormwater drainage system. The EPD had stepped up its inspections of the sources of pollution in the district from 2022 to March 2023. During the said period, it had conducted a total of 534 inspections of manholes and detected 31 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. These cases had all been referred to the BD for follow-up. There was a significant increase in cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings compared with the data of the same period in 2021 and 2022. The EPD had identified three cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings in 2022 and six cases in 2021. As such, it had increased manpower and allocated additional resources since 2022 to strengthen the detection of cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. The EPD would determine the locations for inspection having regard to various factors, including the discharging situation at outfalls, the distribution of old buildings and the locations where foul water pipe misconnection had taken place. Apart from mobilising officer grade and inspector grade staff to directly take part in the investigations, the EPD would also engage contractors to assist in inspecting manholes.
28. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he opined that the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront should be

tackled at source. In his opinion, the Government should allocate additional manpower to the departments concerned, including the BD and EPD, in order to speed up the handling of the problem of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Assuming that the BD and EPD respectively had five additional staff members in their regional offices in each district and the total payroll cost of one staff member would be about \$400,000 per annum at the maximum, the total payroll cost of 10 additional staff members in a district would be about \$4 million per annum. If the regional offices in the 18 districts in the territory would all increase their manpower, the total payroll cost would be about \$72 million per annum. He believed that the Government could afford the said expenditure. He was pleased that both departments reported on their progress of engaging additional manpower. He hoped that all the related departments would actively strive for resources from the policy bureaux concerned. He also reminded these departments to pay close attention to the application arrangements and deadlines of the RAE (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and

- (2) he agreed that additional manpower and resources should be allocated to the departments concerned to tackle matters related to foul water pipe misconnection. He believed that the departments concerned would continuously make extra efforts to address cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and follow up on the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront (the Chairman).

## VII Item 6: Information Papers

29. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:

- (1) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2023 - April 2023)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 12/2023);
- (2) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 March 2023 to 30 April 2023)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 13/2023);
- (3) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (March to April 2023)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 14/2023);
- (4) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (March to April 2023)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 15/2023);
- (5) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (March 2023 to April 2023)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 16/2023);

- (6) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District  
(EHCCC Paper No. 17/2023); and
- (7) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan District during February 2023 to March 2023  
(EHCCC Paper No. 18/2023).

VIII Item 7: Any Other Business

30. The Chairman said some local residents and stall operators of markets had conveyed to him that the FEHD had performed well in its operations against illegal extension of business by shops, particularly those conducted around Tsuen Wan Market Street. He hoped that the FEHD would keep up its good work to maintain the cleanliness of streets.

IX Adjournment of Meeting

31. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 24 August 2023 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 9 August 2023 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

20 July 2023