

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of
Social Services and Community Development Committee (1/21-22)

Date : 23 April 2021
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr WONG Ka-wa (Chairman)
Ms CHAN Kim-kam (Vice Chairman)
Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH
Mr LI Hung-por
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus
Mr LAM Sek-tim
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH
Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly
Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio
Mr CHIU Yan-loy
Mr LAU Chi-hung
Mr LAU Cheuk-yu
Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy
Mr LAU Jackson
Mr LAI Man-fai
Mr TSE Man-chak

Government Representatives

Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LUI Ka-wing	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3, Social Welfare Department
Ms WONG Sau-man, Samantha	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)1, Education Bureau

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
Representatives

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr YIM Hong-yue, Owen (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr NG Cheuk-pong, James	Executive Officer (District Council) 4,

Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For Discussion of Item 2A

Mr LUI Yee-choi	Division Commander (New Territories Command South Division), Fire Services Department
Mr WU Chi-wah	Station Commander, Tsuen Wan Fire Station, Fire Services Department
Mr CHUM Tai-kong	Assistant Divisional Officer (Building Improvement) 24, Fire Safety Command, Fire Services Department
Mr WONG Kwun-pong	Senior Station Officer (Building Improvement) 206, Fire Safety Command, Fire Services Department

Absent:

Member

Mr SHUM Lester

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 8th meeting of the Social Services and Community Development Committee (SSCDC).

2. The Chairman stated that for Members' information, Mr SHUM Lester was absent with apologies.

3. The Chairman reminded Members that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the "Standing Orders"), unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, each Member might speak for each agenda item once at the meeting. For each agenda item, a maximum of four Members might speak and each of them might speak up to 1.5 minutes. Each Member who submitted a paper might have up to three minutes to introduce the paper and speak. Each representative from government departments might have up to three minutes for giving response.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 2.3.2021

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received one proposed amendment from Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus prior to this meeting as follows:

- (1) in line 1 of paragraph 30(2) in the captioned minutes, "他希望所有委員均能出席下次會議" (he hoped that all Members would be present at the next meeting) should be amended as "他祝願所有委員均能在亂世下獲得平安，在下次會議時亦能看見缺席委員出現" (he wished all Members peace in

turbulent times, and hoped that he would see absent Members at the next meeting).

5. The Chairman asked whether Members endorsed the minutes with the proposed amendment. Members unanimously endorsed the minutes with the proposed amendment.

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

(A) Paragraphs 11 to 20 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 2.3.2021: Concern about Issues of Fire Safety and Building Management of “Three-Nil” Buildings in Tsuen Wan District

6. The Chairman said that Mr LAU Cheuk-yu submitted the paper. The representatives of the government departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr LUI Yee-choi, Division Commander (New Territories Command South Division) of the Fire Services Department (FSD);
- (2) Mr WU Chi-wah, Station Commander, Tsuen Wan Fire Station of the FSD;
- (3) Mr CHUM Tai-kong, Assistant Divisional Officer (Building Improvement) 24, Fire Safety Command of the FSD;
- (4) Mr WONG Kwun-pong, Senior Station Officer (Building Improvement) 206, Fire Safety Command of the FSD; and
- (5) Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, Senior Liaison Officer (2) (SLO(2)) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO).

Besides, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and Buildings Department (BD) had submitted the written replies on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

(Note: Mr LAI Man-fai joined the meeting at 2:38 p.m.)

7. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) apart from providing various supporting services on building management for “three-nil” buildings and old buildings as mentioned at the last meeting, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the third phase of the Community Care Fund (CCF) - Subsidy Scheme for Owners' Corporations of Old Buildings from October 2018 to September 2021 to provide subsidies for owners' corporations (OCs) of old buildings. The subsidy items covered the expenses paid by eligible OCs on regular inspection of fire service installations and equipment, electrical installations and lifts at respective buildings as well as annual clearance of fire escapes on an accountable basis. The maximum amount of subsidy for each item was 50% of the actual expenses. Each eligible OC might receive a maximum amount of total subsidy of \$24,000 during the programme period;
- (2) to assist OCs and owners' committees in handling building management and large-scale maintenance projects, the HAD established the Central Platform on Building Management. It regularly invited officials from government departments related to building management and maintenance projects to deliver talks and brief building owners, OCs and owners' committees on

various supporting schemes and subsidy items. For instance, it invited the FSD and BD to explain the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) and how to comply with the Fire Safety Directions, and the URA to introduce the subsidy items under the Integrated Building Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme; and

- (3) the TWDO would also regularly organise building management courses to help OCs and owners gain a better understanding of building management and the requirements of relevant ordinances.
8. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he enquired whether the government departments could provide new data in respect of the captioned matter, or brief Members on the supporting measures which had already been implemented in Tsuen Wan district. Besides, he opined that there was a hole in the CCF because it failed to support “three-nil” buildings without residents’ organisations, such as OCs (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
 - (2) he opined that the CCF could provide practical support. Besides, he asked the TWDO to arrange a briefing session on the HAD’s services and programmes on building management and the application process of the CCF for Members after the meeting, and invited interested Members to attend the briefing session. He reminded that Members should more proactively propose solutions to the problems at “three-nil” buildings in their respective constituencies (the Chairman);
 - (3) she would attend the said briefing session. Also, she hoped that the TWDO would invite relevant departments, such as the URA, to introduce the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme at the briefing session to enable Members to learn about whether the Scheme was instrumental in improving the fire safety problems of “three-nil” buildings without OCs (the Vice Chairman); and
 - (4) he opined that although the application process of the CCF was relatively simple, “three-nil” buildings lacked OCs serving as applicants for the CCF. He therefore hoped that the Government would assist “three-nil” buildings with the procurement of fire safety equipment by provision of subsidy schemes or with the assistance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and teach residents of these buildings to use fire safety equipment in order to solve the fire safety problems of “three-nil” buildings. In addition, he acknowledged the fire safety education of the FSD. However, without the coordination of OCs, residents of “three-nil” buildings were at a loss after receiving fire safety orders from the FSD. He thus suggested that social welfare organisations should be subsidised to provide assistance for the buildings concerned. The Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) might also consider using the funds for community involvement projects to purchase fire service equipment for “three-nil” buildings (Mr CHIU Yan-loy).

(Note: Mr YAU Kam-ping left the meeting at 2:42 p.m. Mr LAU Chi-hung joined the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Mr LAU Jackson joined the meeting at 2:48 p.m.)

9. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO would arrange a briefing session after the meeting to brief Members on the supporting services and programmes provided by the HAD on building management for old buildings.

(Post-meeting note: The briefing session was held on 1 June 2021.)

10. The Chairman asked whether the FSD would like to make supplementary remarks on the captioned matter. The FSD had nothing to add.

11. The Chairman said that the SSCDC would not continue discussing the captioned matter under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

IV Item 3: Proposal on Funds Allocation for Social Services and Community Development Committee 2021/22

(SSCDC Paper No. 1/21-22)

12. The Chairman said that the proposal on funds allocation was identical to that of the previous year. Given the decrease in funding applications from local organisations due to the epidemic in the previous year, he appealed to Members to invite NGOs to submit funding applications.

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

- (1) he enquired why the original allocation available for use by the Task Force on Care for the Elderly, Rehabilitation and Community Information was greater than the revised allocation available for use as set out in the Financial Summary of Social Services and Community Development Committee Funds 2020-21; and whether non-profit-making charitable organisations, such as churches, which were covered by section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance could apply for the SSCDC funds (Mr LAU Chi-hung);
- (2) he enquired whether the SSCDC could only accept funding applications for co-organising activities with its Working Groups from NGOs which were managed or subsidised by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). If so, he enquired whether this requirement could be relaxed so that more organisations would be eligible for applying for the funds (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (3) he enquired whether local organisations which met the funding requirements but were not managed or subsidised by the SWD could apply for the funds to co-organise activities with the Working Groups (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (4) she suggested at a SSCDC meeting in 2020 that the requirement under which the Working Groups should only co-organise activities with organisations managed or subsidised by the SWD should be waived. She opined that many local organisations were not included in the SWD's list of subvention due to the constraints of the social welfare system, and therefore supported accepting applications for the District Council (DC) funds from a wider range of organisations. Besides, she would provide Members with a list of organisations subsidised by the SWD after the meeting. She also said that

organisations registered as societies or non-profit-making charitable organisations could apply for the funds for local organisations/institutions (the Vice Chairman); and

- (5) he reminded Members that the Proposal on Funds Allocation for Social Services and Community Development Committee 2021/22 was under discussion. He said that the decrease in the number of NGOs applying for the funds in the previous year might be a result of the epidemic. He welcomed invitations from Members to organisations which met the Guidelines on the Tsuen Wan District Council Funds (the “Guidelines”) to apply for the funds this year. Besides, he reiterated that the SSCDC would not only accept funding applications from organisations managed or subsidised by the SWD but also local organisations which complied with the Guidelines. If Members successfully invited organisations which were not managed or subsidised by the SWD and had district centres to co-organise activities with the Working Groups, they might liaise with the Convenors of respective Working Groups on the proposals. The Convenors should consider whether to accept these funding applications (the Chairman).

14. The Secretary responded as follows:

- (1) according to the Chairman’s proposal, NGOs co-organising activities with the Working Groups should be managed or subsidised by the SWD. Other organisations might apply for the funds for local organisations/institutions in accordance with the Guidelines; and
- (2) the Secretariat would process received applications for the DC funds based on the SSCDC’s decisions. If organisations wished to apply for the DC funds, they might obtain the consent from the Convenors of respective Working Groups first. The Secretariat would process the funding applications according to the Guidelines.

15. The Chairman said that the SSCDC was allocated \$1,995,500 (including 5% deficit budget) in 2021/22 for the implementation of the DC funds (community involvement projects). The SSCDC endorsed the proposal on funds allocation and related administrative arrangements.

V Item 4: Motion: Request that the Government Should Set up a Charitable Food Fund for Tsuen Wan District
(SSCDC Paper No. 2/21-22)

16. The Chairman said that Mr LAM Sek-tim and Mr LAU Chi-hung submitted the paper. The representatives of the government departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms LUI Ka-wing, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)³ (ADSWO(TW/KwT)³) of the SWD; and
- (2) Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, SLO(2) of the TWDO.

Besides, the consolidated written reply from the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and SWD had been submitted prior to the meeting for Members’ perusal.

17. Mr LAM Sek-tim and Mr LAU Chi-hung introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr CHAN Sung-ip left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.)

18. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded that the SWD was concerned about the unemployment or underemployment situation during the epidemic, and welcomed a discussion with Members on potential supporting measures for Tsuen Wan district after the meeting.

19. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded that the captioned proposal fell outside the purview of the TWDO. Also, the TWDO had no resources or plan to set up a charitable food fund for the time being. If the Working Groups under the TWDC wished to conduct related activities and schemes on a trial basis, the TWDO was willing to provide assistance and support accordingly.

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

- (1) he supported the motion. In his opinion, this could help the needy in the district by making effective use of government resources. He understood that before setting up a new fund, government departments required cooperation of policy bureaux for implementation. He therefore hoped that the representatives of government departments attending the meeting would consult the authorities on the motion prior to the meeting, or provide relevant written replies (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
- (2) he supported the motion. Yet, he opined that the approach where a government department spearheaded the scheme was questionable. He suggested that the Government should take up the role of a coordinator in managing the charitable fund, liaising with restaurants in the district and encouraging them to draw reference from the approach of the private sector or charitable trusts, thereby enabling people in need to obtain and redeem meal vouchers at the restaurants (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (3) while supporting the motion, he considered the approach where a government department spearheaded the scheme inefficient. He suggested that Members should consider making use of the DC funds to implement a sustainable programme of meal distribution. Besides, he enquired whether relevant programmes had been put in place under the CCF for which NGOs could apply (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (4) he pointed out that the unemployment rate was high during the epidemic, but the Government had not provided unemployment assistance. Also, unemployed people in general received insignificant allowances from the unemployment loan or Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme. He therefore agreed with the motion. He also held that the fund should be led by NGOs with the assistance of the SWD and TWDO so that more people could benefit from it (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (5) he supported the motion. He pointed out that street sleepers, people with low income or those who were recently unemployed could make applications

to food banks. Yet, the procedures were complicated. Besides, he had recently received a request for assistance from an unemployed person whose husband was also out of job. He had referred the case to the SWD and informed the assistance seeker of a Member's office with a self-help food bank. The concerned food bank accepted food donations from the public and offered a relatively wide range of food. The assistance seeker told him that she was very pleased to learn of this food bank. In addition, he noticed that some street sleepers would eat leftovers of other diners in fast food restaurants, and opined that they were in great need of assistance. He therefore supported this motion (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);

- (6) he respected the Members who proposed this motion for their hard work serving the grassroots. He also supported the motion. However, he opined that it would be very difficult for the Government to implement the proposed measures of the motion in the short term. He thus suggested that the SWD and TWDO should seek funding support for NGOs which were willing to organise and coordinate food distribution in Tsuen Wan district. An NGO providing food distribution service had approached him in the past. The NGO hoped that government departments would assist it in setting up a branch in Tsuen Wan. He therefore asked Members and government departments to invite the private sector and charitable funds to support relevant organisations (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
- (7) he enquired whether the SWD and TWDO could set up a charitable food fund in Tsuen Wan first and take the lead in gathering food from different sectors of the community for distribution in the district; and whether they could furnish Members with information on relevant projects which were underway after the meeting. Besides, he enquired about the details of the SWD's Short-term Food Assistance Service Projects (STFASPs). In addition, he opined that government departments were better fitted to play a supporting role with respect to the matter concerned. He also asked the Convenors of the Working Group on Integrated Community Services and Community Education and the Task Force on Care for the Elderly, Rehabilitation and Community Information to identify NGOs which provided food distribution services, and to learn about whether food could be collected from restaurants at specific locations in Tsuen Wan district using the DC funds for implementing the food distribution service (the Chairman).

21. SLO(2) of the TWDO responded that the initiative of food recycling and distribution fell beyond the policy areas of the HAD at the moment.

22. ADSWO(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) the Government had no plan to set up a new charitable food fund for the time being;
- (2) to support the unemployed or underemployed during the epidemic, the Government had obtained the funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to relax the asset limits of the STFASPs on a time-limited basis for 12 months starting from June 2021. For example, the asset

limit of a four-person household would be relaxed more than twofold from \$264,000 to \$548,000;

- (3) the SWD would regularise the STFASPs from August 2021, and incorporate the STFASPs into its fully-subvented regular welfare services; and
- (4) the details of the monthly income and asset limits of the STFASPs would be provided for Members' reference in due course.

23. Mr LAM Sek-tim moved a motion to "request that the Government should set up a charitable food fund for food premises in Tsuen Wan district". Mr LAU Chi-hung seconded.

24. The Chairman asked whether Members would like to move a revised motion. No Member moved a revised motion.

25. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the motion. Members unanimously endorsed the motion.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the motion to the Home Affairs Bureau and LWB in writing on 17 May 2021.)

VI Item 5: Information Papers

26. Members noted the contents of the following information paper:

- (1) Financial Summary of Social Services and Community Development Committee Funds 2020-21 (SSCDC Paper No. 3/21-22).

27. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio suggested that the items in the financial summary and those in the proposal on funds allocation should be set out in the same order for easy perusal by Members.

28. The Secretary noted the Member's view.

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

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

- (1) he asked Members to invite NGOs to organise publicity activities for the TWDC. He also stated that the SSCDC would write to invite organisations under the subvention of the SWD to apply for the TWDC funds (the Chairman);
- (2) he enquired whether the posters with photographs of District Councillors on the DC's notice boards in the district were prepared by NGOs (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (3) he pointed out that some Working Groups occasionally convened meetings in a year, and suggested that Members should endorse relevant minutes by circulation of papers before the next meeting (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (4) he enquired about the progress of arranging a group photoshoot for Members of the TWDC (Mr LAM Sek-tim); and

(5) he opined that a group photoshoot should also be arranged for Members of the TWDC in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Satellite Town of Tsuen Wan (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly).

30. The Chairman asked Members to follow up on matters concerning publicity activities for the TWDC together with him after the meeting. He also pointed out that the epidemic resulted in the failure to arrange meetings of the Working Groups in 2020.

31. The Secretary noted Members' views.

(A) Date of Next Meeting

32. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 18 June 2021 and the deadline for submission of paper was 2 June 2021.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

33. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

3 May 2021