

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (2/25-26)

Date : 19 June 2025
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Chun-chung (Vice Chairman)
Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker
Mr NG Chun-yu
Mr CHU Tak-wing, MH
Ms LAM Yuen-pun
Mr CHOW Sum-ming
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Ms CHEUNG Man-ka
Ms CHAN Shun-shun
Mr MOK Yuen-kwan
Mr CHAN Hiu-chun, MH, JP
Mr TSANG Tai
Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum
Ms WAH Mei-ling
Mr WONG Kai-chun
Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH
Mr LAU Chung-kong
Mr CHENG Chit-pun
Mr HUI Chun-fai

Government Representatives

Mr KWAN Chun-kit, Eric	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr YAU Wai-kit, Angus	Senior Librarian (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr KWOK Ka-ho	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan)1, Education Bureau
Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2, Environmental Protection Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms IP Wai-ling, Jennifer (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LI Yin-chung, Tony	Executive Officer (District Council)4, Tsuen Wan District Office

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 9th meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC).

2. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. In regard to the subject matter of Tsuen Wan District Parent Teacher Association Federation Limited (TWDPTAF) inviting the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) to co-organise activities under Any Other Business, the Secretariat had received declarations of interests made by the following Members prior to this meeting: The Chairman and Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker served as the Advisor and Honorary Advisor of the TWDPTAF respectively. The Chairman of the TWDC had decided that the Chairman and Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker should refrain from participating in the discussion, resolution and voting of the subject matter concerned. Yet, they were permitted to remain in the meeting as observers and were not required to withdraw from the discussion of the agenda item concerned. The Chairman of the TWDC had made the above decision on the ground that the Members concerned might have a relatively close relationship with the beneficiaries.

3. The Chairman said that Members could speak once and make supplementary remarks once on each agenda item at the meeting. Each Member could speak up to two minutes in the first round of speeches and up to one minute in the second round of speeches.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 8th Meeting held on 24.4.2025

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth

proposed amendments immediately. 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 Meetings

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

IV Item 3: Concern about Beach Water Quality and Manpower Shortage of Lifeguards at Beaches in Tsuen Wan

(TWDC CICRC Paper No. 9/25-26)

6. The Chairman said that Mr TSANG Tai, Mr CHAN Hiu-chun, Mr WONG Kai-chun and Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support (DDL(M)(TW)DS), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD); and
- (2) Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

Besides, the written reply of the EPD was tabled at the meeting.

7. Mr TSANG Tai and Mr CHAN Hiu-chun introduced the paper.

8. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) thanks to the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and other sewage infrastructure, the beach water quality in Tsuen Wan district had shown continuous improvement. Although the beach water quality in Hong Kong had remained stable all along, different local and international scientific studies had clearly shown that the beach water quality would fluctuate widely in response to environmental and weather conditions. In particular, rainwater would wash pollutants from the land into the sea, leading to transient natural fluctuations in the water quality of individual beaches;
- (2) during the bathing seasons in 2022 to 2025 (as of May), the water quality of all beaches open to the public in Tsuen Wan district had been ranked “Very Poor” 26 times in total. On average, the water quality of each beach had only reached this level once or twice per year. Such occurrences were primarily associated with heavy rain, after which the beach water quality would rapidly return to the normal level once the weather conditions stabilised. The EPD consistently advised members of the public to avoid swimming at the beaches within three days after a storm or heavy rain, since the beach water quality might be affected temporarily during and after the downpour. Such advice also aligned with international common practice;
- (3) with a view to furthering protecting the health of swimmers, the EPD had launched the Beach Water Quality Forecast System (the “System”) in August 2023 to supplement the existing Beach Monitoring Programme. The System would provide daily forecasts of beach water quality based on the

latest environmental and hydrometeorological parameters. When the beach water quality forecast index reached “4 – Very Poor”, it indicated that transient fluctuations in the water quality might arise from rainy weather, and the LCSD would hoist red flags at the beaches concerned. Members of the public should also refrain from swimming at these beaches or consider engaging in water sports at other nearby beaches with a better beach water quality forecast index. The System aimed to predict natural changes in the water quality caused by hydrometeorological factors. Therefore, when the weather conditions stabilised, the beach water quality forecast index would be adjusted accordingly; and

- (4) the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan in the bathing season of 2025 was relatively stable over the same period in the past few years. The EPD would continue to closely monitor the beach water quality. It would also carry out patrol and surveillance in the surrounding areas on a regular basis to ensure that there was no abnormal discharge, thereby maintaining the stability of the beach water quality.

9. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD had all along been actively increasing the manpower of lifeguards to enhance the safety and service quality of water sports facilities. At present, there were a total of five beaches providing lifesaving services in Tsuen Wan district;
- (2) as most private buildings were equipped with swimming pools, the market demand for lifeguards had increased but the number of people joining the lifeguard profession had decreased. Consequently, the LCSD faced difficulties in recruiting lifeguards;
- (3) in order to ensure the safety of users of water sports facilities, the LCSD would arrange for sufficient lifeguards to be on duty at water sports venues that were open for use and deploy additional manpower when necessary, such as calling off-duty lifeguards to report for duty or arranging lifeguards to work overtime where practicable;
- (4) the LCSD had adopted different measures to stabilise and increase the supply of lifeguards. Apart from enhancing the remuneration for lifeguards, the LCSD had also launched the Combined Seasonal Lifeguard Training Scheme and organised the Integrated Certificates Course on Life Saving to attract more people who had not held any lifesaving qualifications to join the lifeguard profession. In the meantime, the LCSD had cooperated with the Employees Retraining Board to organise professional lifesaving training programmes and provide job opportunities. In addition, through organising promotional activities on water safety, the LCSD enabled youngsters to learn about lifesaving and lifesaving services at beaches, thereby uplifting the image of lifeguards and encouraging youngsters to pursue careers in lifesaving. The LCSD had explored different methods with the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society to further stabilise the manpower supply of lifeguards;
- (5) considering that the contractors of outsourced services allowed for more

flexible arrangements for lifeguard recruitment and offered greater versatility in terms of the remuneration packages provided to lifeguards, the LCSD had conducted trial provision of outsourced lifesaving and first aid services at six public swimming pools since September 2024, including Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool, Tai Kok Tsui Swimming Pool, Lam Tin Swimming Pool, Tung Cheong Street Swimming Pool, Island East Swimming Pool and Tsing Yi Southwest Swimming Pool;

- (6) despite the shortage of lifeguards, the LCSD had still provided lifesaving services at Lido Beach and Casam Beach in Tsuen Wan district during winter (i.e. November to March of the following year) since 2024; and
 - (7) in regard to the clearance of refuse at beaches, the LCSD was responsible for clearing refuse within the area of gazetted beaches and inside the swimming zones, while the clearance of refuse floating on sea surface was undertaken by the Marine Department. The LCSD would also step up the clearance of refuse in the beach area after heavy rain.
10. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) a Member enquired whether the wind direction and the geographical location of the beach would affect its water quality, and pointed out that the water quality of Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach was relatively better;
 - (2) a Member pointed out that the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan had been ranked “Very Poor” 26 times in total during the bathing seasons in 2022 to 2025 (as of May), which was about nine times per year on average. However, during the period when the beaches were open in summer, the number of times that adverse weather had occurred might be less than the aforementioned number. The Member therefore enquired whether the EPD had compiled the statistics on the percentage of the beach water quality being ranked “Very Poor” out of the number of days that the beaches had been open;
 - (3) a Member suggested that the LCSD should take university students and high school students aged 18 or above into consideration when recruiting part-time lifeguards;
 - (4) a Member advised that the LCSD should import foreign labour to fill the vacancies of lifeguards;
 - (5) in addition to adverse weather, a Member wished to learn about the other causes that would lead to the beach water quality being ranked “Very Poor”, and requested the EPD to provide relevant data;
 - (6) a Member enquired of the EPD about the details of beach water quality testing; and
 - (7) a Member enquired whether Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach was included in the eight beaches in Tsuen Wan district.
11. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach was one of the eight beaches in Tsuen Wan district;
 - (2) the poor water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan was primarily due to adverse weather. Among the 26 recorded instances that the beach water quality had

been ranked “Very Poor” in the past, five had not been caused by adverse weather;

- (3) the beach water quality was affected by multiple factors, such as pollutants in nearby rivers, the wind direction and the season, etc. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether the water quality of individual beaches was better based on a single factor alone; and
- (4) during the bathing season, the EPD would conduct beach water quality testing three times a month. The testing would be suspended on rainy days to ensure that the accuracy of the data was unaffected.

12. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the eight beaches in Tsuen Wan under the LCSD included Approach Beach, Ting Kau Beach, Lido Beach, Casam Beach, Hoi Mei Wan Beach, Gemini Beach (lifesaving service was not provided temporarily), Anglers’ Beach and Ma Wan Tung Beach; and
- (2) in addition to seasonal lifeguards, the LCSD had also recruited part-time lifeguards. The LCSD had actively promoted recruitment messages to various swimming clubs, and the relevant swimming clubs would also provide the LCSD with honorary lifeguards. The LCSD noted the Member’s suggestion on importing foreign labour to fill the vacancies of lifeguards.

13. A Member said that according to the information provided by the EPD, the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan had been ranked “Very Poor” 26 times in total during the bathing seasons in 2022 to 2025 (as of May), only five of which had not been caused by adverse weather. The Member wished to learn about the causes of these five incidents, as well as the investigation methodology and measures to improve the water quality.

14. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that if the beach water quality was ranked “Very Poor”, the EPD would initiate an investigation. However, the causes of the situations enquired by the Member remained unclear. In regard to the investigation on the beach water quality, the EPD would visit facilities with a higher risk of leakage and locations suspected of illegal sewage discharge to ascertain whether unusual leakage or discharge had occurred.

V Item 4: Information Paper

Report on the Cultural Activities in Tsuen Wan District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(TWDC CICRC Paper No. 10/25-26)

15. Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the LCSD introduced the paper.

VI Item 5: Any Other Business

16. The Chairman said that the Chairman of the TWDC had appointed the Vice Chairman to stand in as the Acting Chairman, and he would pass the chair to the Acting

Chairman to preside over the discussion of the subject matter concerned.

17. The Acting Chairman said that the TWDC had received an invitation from the TWDPTAF, inviting the TWDC to co-organise two activities. They were “Tsuen Wan District Kindergarten and Primary School Expo Carnival cum Primary School Admission Talk 2025” and “Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Secondary School Expo cum Secondary School Admission Talk 2025” respectively. He asked if Members agreed that the TWDC should become a co-organiser of the aforementioned activities and approved the use of the TWDC’s logo by the TWDPTAF. Members unanimously agreed to the arrangements.

18. The Acting Chairman said that the Chairman would then continue to preside over the meeting.

19. The Chairman said that the TWDC and District Leader Team would form a team to participate in the running activity of the 2025 Olympic Day on 22 June 2025. The team members included the Chairman, Mr LAU Chung-kong, Mr MOK Yuen-kwan, Mr TSANG Tai, Mr NG Chun-yu, Mr KWAN Chun-kit, Eric, Assistant District Officer of the Tsuen Wan District Office and other members of the local community.

20. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD said that the Sport For All Day 2025 would be held at Tsuen Wan Sports Centre from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 3 August 2025. The LCSD would later invite Members of the TWDC and relevant committees to participate in the event together. The LCSD planned to promote a new sport, namely kin-ball, and organise a drone soccer competition on that day.

21. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD said that the LCSD planned to carry out improvement works for the ground of some areas in Hoi Shing Garden to make it more convenient for members of the public to enjoy various new sports, including floorball, floor curling and pickleball, etc. The works were expected to be carried out between the period from late 2025 to early 2026. Some parts of Hoi Shing Garden would be closed at that time, meanwhile groups which had already hired the venue would not be affected. The LCSD asked for Members’ views on the aforementioned improvement works. Members unanimously supported the works concerned.

22. A Member said that many people would engage in activities in Hoi Shing Garden. Therefore, the Member accorded recognition to the LCSD and was pleased to see that the LCSD had continuously enhanced the facilities of the venue concerned, so that members of the public could enjoy an activity venue of a higher quality.

23. The Chairman said that the LCSD had arranged for Members of the TWDC to visit the greening facilities and the garden plot design named “A Jiangnan Residence” on 16 June 2025. The garden plot concerned had won the championship at the Oriental Style Garden Plot Competition of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2025. The Chairman

suggested that the LCSD should provide additional signage beside the garden plot concerned to briefly introduce its design concept.

24. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD thanked the Chairman for his views and would arrange for the provision of additional signage next to the garden plot concerned as soon as possible.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had provided additional signage next to the garden plot.)

VII Adjournment of Meeting

25. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 21 August 2025 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 6 August 2025 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

26 June 2025