

The minutes were confirmed on 5.6.2025 without amendment.

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of**  
**Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee**  
**under Yuen Long District Council in 2025**

Date: 3 April 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 3:35 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,  
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

**Present**

Chairman: Mr LUI Kin, MH

Vice Chairman: Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH

Members: Mr MAN Yick-yeung  
Mr WONG Wai-leung  
Mr WONG Hiu-shan  
Ms HO Hiu-man  
Mr LI Kai-lap, Riben  
Ms LI Ching-yee  
Mr SHUM Ho-kit, BBS, JP  
Mr LAM Wai-ming  
Mr SEI Chun-hing  
Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi  
Mr CHAN Ka-fai  
Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie  
Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP  
Mr FUNG Chun-wing  
Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH  
Mr WONG Siu-chung  
Ms WONG Wai-ling  
Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan  
Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie

Co-opted Member: Ms LAM Pik-chu, MH

Secretary: Mr LO Wing-cheuk, Billy      Executive Officer (District Council)1,  
Yuen Long District Office

**In Attendance**

Mr TSANG Churn, Roy	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 2
Ms POON Yuk-cheung	Senior School Development Officer (Yuen Long) 4, Education Bureau
Mr PANG Lap-pun, Freeman	Senior Librarian (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Kan-hei	Senior Manager (New Territories West) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wing-yee	Manager (New Territories West) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Siu-lan	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Yuen Long, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

**Item VI**

Ms TAM Yu-yan, Maggie

Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Yuen Long District Office

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**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and departmental representatives to the second meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (“CICRC”) under the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2025.

**Item I: Confirmation of the minutes of the first meeting of CICRC in 2025 held on 6 February 2025**

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2. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the first meeting of the CICRC in 2025 held on 6 February 2025.

**Questions Raised by Members:**

**Item II: Mr Daniel CHAM proposed a discussion on ‘Proposal for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) to consider providing more “self-service library stations” in Yuen Long District’ (CICRC Paper No. 9/2025)**

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3. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 9 and a written reply from the LCSD.

4. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members were pleased to note that the LCSD had earlier launched a pilot scheme to set up one self-service library station each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories, providing book borrowing and return services for the public outside library opening hours. It was suggested that the LCSD extend the service to Yuen Long District, particularly rural or remote areas, upon reviewing the effectiveness of the pilot scheme, so as to foster a reading culture in the district; and
- (2) Members suggested that the LCSD make reference to the experience of similar schemes in the Mainland, such as the location of self-service library stations. Members were pleased to assist the LCSD in collecting residents’ views on the scheme.

5. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The LCSD noted Members’ suggestion to set up self-service library stations in Yuen Long District;
- (2) The LCSD was actively developing a Smart Library System and would, upon its commencement of operation, study the feasibility of further expanding self-service facilities, including the need for additional self-service library stations; and
- (3) The LCSD would continue to review existing library services with a view to enhancing service quality.

6. In conclusion, the Chairman requested the LCSD to take note of Members' views and to actively explore the feasibility of setting up self-service library stations in Yuen Long District.

**Item III: Ms HO Hiu-man and Mr WONG Siu-chung proposed a discussion on “Shortage problem of lifeguards” (CICRC Paper No. 10/2025)**

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7. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 10 and a written reply from the LCSD.

8. After discussion, Members' views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members had received feedbacks from local residents that some public swimming pools could not be fully opened due to a shortage of seasonal lifeguards and enquired about the estimated number of swimming pools and beaches that could not be opened in the new swimming season due to insufficient lifeguards;
- (2) While noting that the LCSD had proactively invested resources in the training of lifeguards and conducted publicity in recent years, including organising lifesaving training programmes with the Employees Retraining Board (“ERB”) from June to September, Members considered that the department had yet to effectively resolve the shortage of lifeguards. Members suggested that the LCSD formulate longer term solutions and a timetable. Members also enquired about the follow-up actions and effectiveness of the recommendations made by the Office of The Ombudsman, Hong Kong, in 2016 regarding the shortage of lifeguards;
- (3) Members enquired about the specific pay adjustment for lifeguards and suggested that the LCSD conduct a grade structure review. Considering that the recruitment of lifeguards might be affected by the current pay level and the seasonal nature of the job, Members suggested that the LCSD enhance professional training for lifeguards so that seasonal lifeguards could remain employed in other fields outside the swimming season;
- (4) Members suggested that the LCSD consider different measures to address the shortage of lifeguards, such as importing labour with lifesaving certificates, utilising artificial intelligence systems to assist lifesaving services, and accrediting additional lifesaving examination bodies apart from the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society. In addition, Members suggested that the LCSD organise more lifesaving training programmes and explore the introduction of one-stop training programmes enabling participants to obtain multiple professional qualifications, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of the programmes;
- (5) Members were pleased to learn that lifeguard unions had reported that the LCSD's voluntary extended working-hours scheme for lifeguards introduced last year had begun to yield results and suggested that the LCSD optimise the scheme;
- (6) Given the current lack of suitable venues for new water sports, Members suggested that the LCSD utilise unused swimming pools to promote the development of such sports; and
- (7) Members expressed concern that private swimming pools in the district might employ unlicensed lifeguards due to manpower shortages and enquired about the inspection arrangements by relevant government departments.

9. A consolidated reply provided by Ms CHAN Siu-lan of the LCSD was as follows:
- (1) Owing to the insufficient supply of lifeguards in the labour market, it had been difficult for the Government to employ adequate seasonal lifeguards in recent years to provide lifesaving services during the swimming season. To stabilise and increase the supply of lifeguards, the LCSD had rolled out short-term, mid-term, and long-term measures and would work closely with relevant bureaux/departments and organisations to address the issue through various measures;
  - (2) As a short-term measure to stabilise the supply of lifeguards, the LCSD had offered a better remuneration package for non-civil service contract lifeguards. Depending on the position as well as the types of lifeguard awards and first-aid certificate held, the salary of a seasonal lifeguard with end-of-contract gratuities might range from \$24,500 to \$26,000 per month. The LCSD had also adopted various measures to address manpower shortages, such as launching the Combined Seasonal Lifeguard Training Scheme, which offered full-time training and practice for people with no lifesaving qualifications in a “hire and train” mode, allowing them to acquire pool and/or beach lifesaving awards before serving as LCSD seasonal lifeguards. Other measures included promoting lifesaving training programmes to ethnic minorities, improving the flexibility of recruitment procedures and conducting regular grade structure reviews;
  - (3) Moreover, the LCSD co-organised specialised lifesaving training programmes with the ERB with a view to increasing the long-term supply of lifeguards. Other mid-term and long-term measures included outsourcing lifesaving services at public swimming pools and recruiting more honorary lifeguards;
  - (4) To cope with the peak demand during the new swimming season from July to September, the LCSD had been progressively recruiting seasonal lifeguards and expected to continue attracting manpower through various measures;
  - (5) The LCSD was exploring the adoption of an artificial intelligence drowning detection system and would review the effectiveness of the relevant trial scheme in due course;
  - (6) The LCSD was reviewing the voluntary extended working-hours scheme for lifeguards and would announce details of the scheme for the current year in due course;
  - (7) The LCSD was aware that some seasonal lifeguards were currently engaged in multiple jobs at the same time, but it did not have information on the types of jobs taken up by the lifeguards concerned outside the swimming season;
  - (8) The swimming pool facilities of the LCSD were primarily open during the summer, while non-heated swimming facilities were closed from November to mid-April each year. According to the information as of mid-April, the manpower of lifeguards in the three swimming pools in Yuen Long District was still sufficient to meet operational needs;
  - (9) The LCSD had launched the trial scheme of “Flexible Use of Public Swimming Pool Facilities” to open unused swimming pool facilities that had been closed due to shortage of lifeguards for use by organisations. The LCSD noted Members’ suggestion of utilising unused swimming pools to promote new water sports and would review its feasibility; and

- (10) Currently, lifesaving services at public swimming pools were provided by the LCSD, while private swimming pools were regulated by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in accordance with the Swimming Pools Regulation.

10. In conclusion, the Chairman said that Members had expressed concern over the shortage of lifeguards in Yuen Long District and had made a number of suggestions. It was hoped that the LCSD would introduce new measures to address the problem.

**Item IV: Mr WONG Yuen-tai proposed a discussion on “Arrangements for World Book Day on 23 April”  
(CICRC Paper No. 11/2025)**

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11. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 11 and a written reply from the LCSD.

12. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) It was suggested that Members of the CICRC continue to support the LCSD’s “Hong Kong Reading Week” this year by participating in the “Read Together for Half an Hour” event at the library of the Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School; and
- (2) Members were pleased to see the fruitful results of the activities organised last year and suggested that the LCSD explore further co-operation with local organisations.

13. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The LCSD thanked Members for their support for the “Read Together for Half an Hour” activity last year. This year, the LCSD would continue to invite District Council (“DC”) Members, local organisations, schools, and community libraries to participate in the activity on 23 April. There would be no restrictions on the format and venue of the activities, which might include reading aloud the “Reading Manifesto”, storytelling and book sharing;
- (2) As in previous years, the LCSD would provide themed promotional materials to participating DC Members and organisations for photo-taking and promotional purposes. Participants might submit photos or videos taken during the activity to the LCSD for uploading to the “Hong Kong Reading Week” webpage to share the joy of reading; and
- (3) The LCSD appealed to Members to join hands with local organisations in supporting this year’s “Read Together for Half an Hour” event.

14. The Chairman concluded that Members supported continuing participation in the “Read Together for Half an Hour” event at the library of the Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School this year and suggested that Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH, assist in co-ordinating the event.

(Post-meeting note: Members of the CICRC participated in the “Read Together for Half an Hour”

event at the library of the Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School on 23 April 2025.)

**Item V: Mr SEI Chun-hing proposed a discussion on “Break the Silence and Build Harmony Together: Yuen Long District Hearing-Impaired Friendly Recreation Programme”  
(CICRC Paper No. 12/2025)**

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15. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 12 and a written reply from the LCSD.

16. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members suggested that the LCSD consider incorporating sign language interpretation services into the “Storytelling for Children” activity at libraries and into film or performing arts programme, as well as providing equipment such as vibrating clappers;
- (2) Members considered that the existing barrier-free facilities under the LCSD were insufficient in encouraging interaction between hearing impaired persons and other facility users. For instance, the assistive listening system at Yuen Long Theatre had only been installed in the last two rows of the auditorium seats and not in other seating areas; and
- (3) Given that there were currently no non-governmental organisations in Yuen Long District specifically serving hearing impaired persons, it was suggested that the LCSD step up publicity of existing accessibility services to hearing impaired audiences and provide incentives through its funding schemes to encourage performing groups to proactively offer related services to hearing impaired audiences.

17. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Freeman PANG and Ms CHUNG Kan-hei of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) Public libraries in Yuen Long District had been equipped with various types of barrier-free facilities, and the LCSD had previously organised promotional activities related to hearing impaired persons;
- (2) Due to technical considerations, the LCSD had to lay cables from the control room at the back of the auditorium of Yuen Long Theatre to nearby seats to ensure stable signal transmission for the assistive listening system;
- (3) Some programmes organised or funded by the LCSD provided arts accessibility services for hearing impaired audiences, including the provision of accessible subtitles and theatrical interpretation services. Information about accessibility services would also be included in promotional leaflets; and
- (4) The LCSD noted Members’ suggestion to incorporate sign language interpretation services into relevant activities and would explore its feasibility based on audience size and demand.

18. The Chairman concluded that Members had put forth a number of suggestions to facilitate the participation of hearing impaired persons in recreational and sports activities and urged the LCSD to actively enhance its existing services.

**Report Items:**

**Item VI: Annual plan on community involvement projects of Yuen Long District Office for 2025/26  
(April 2025 to March 2026)  
(CICRC Paper No. 13/2025)**

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19. Ms Maggie TAM of the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) introduced the paper.
20. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:
- (1) Members enquired about the YLDO’s budget for the key community involvement (“CI”) projects mentioned in the paper;
  - (2) Members enquired whether organisers of the Community Involvement Programme needed to make advance payments for activities and the timeline for reimbursement by the YLDO;
  - (3) Members suggested that the YLDO commence publicity for the National Games (“NG”) as early as possible and consider conducting promotion in schools; and
  - (4) Members enquired about the YLDO’s report on CI projects for 2024/25, including the types of projects organised, their effectiveness and resource allocation.
21. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Maggie TAM of the YLDO was as follows:
- (1) The YLDO would prepare the budget for the current year based on the annual funding allocation from the Home Affairs Department, community demand for different activities, and the effectiveness of various CI projects in previous years;
  - (2) To assist grantees in meeting cash flow requirements, grantees could apply to the YLDO for an advance payment of up to 50% of the approved project fund. Before the completion of the project, a grantee might apply for up to two partial reimbursements of CI fund. Upon completion of the project, the grantee must submit a project completion report, an income and expenditure statement, and relevant supporting documents to the YLDO within two months to apply for reimbursement. The YLDO would process reimbursement applications as soon as possible upon receipt of the required documents;
  - (3) The YLDO noted Members’ suggestions on publicity for the NG and would disseminate relevant information to Members as soon as possible to facilitate promotion; and
  - (4) The YLDO would report to the CICRC on the effectiveness of CI projects for 2024/25 in due course.
22. The Chairman concluded that Members supported the key projects proposed by the YLDO for implementation in 2025/26.

**Item VII: Report on the public library extension activities organised by public libraries in Yuen Long District under the LCSD (CICRC Paper No. 14/2025)**

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23. Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD introduced the paper.

24. The Chairman concluded that Members noted the above paper.

**Item VIII: Report by the Yuen Long District Leisure Services Office under the LCSD (April 2025 Issue) (CICRC Paper No. 15/2025)**

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25. Ms CHAN Siu-lan of the LCSD introduced the paper.

26. The Chairman concluded that Members noted the above paper.

**Item IX: Report on the cultural programmes organised by the LCSD in Yuen Long District and the applications for venue sponsorship at Yuen Long Theatre (CICRC Paper No. 16/2025)**

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27. Ms CHUNG Kan-hei of the LCSD introduced the paper.

28. The Chairman concluded that Members noted the above paper.

**Item X: Any other business**

**Item XI: Date of next meeting**

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29. The Chairman said that the third CICRC meeting in 2025 would be held in the Conference Room of the YLDC at 2:30 p.m. on 5 June 2025.

30. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:35 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat  
May 2025