

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

LC Paper No. CB(2)1068/05-06
(These minutes have been seen by
the Administration)

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of Meeting
held on Tuesday, 17 January 2006 at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Member attending : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Members absent : Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long

Public officers attending : Item IV

Mr Vincent LIU
Acting Deputy Secretary (Food & Environmental Hygiene) /
Principal Assistant Secretary (Food & Environmental Hygiene) 2
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Mr Donald TONG
Deputy Director (Administration and Development)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr YEUNG Shun-kui
Assistant Director (Operations) 2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mrs Christine FUNG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LEE Yuk-shing
Chief Project Manager 301
Architectural Services Department

Clerk in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Staff in Attendance : Miss Betty MA
Senior Council Secretary (2)1

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)5

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I Confirmation of minutes of meeting
[LC Paper No. CB(2) 849/05-06]

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2005 were confirmed.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 850/05-06(01) and (02)]

2. Members noted that the Administration had proposed to discuss the Anti-mosquito Campaign 2006 at the next regular meeting on 14 February 2006.

3. Mr Vincent FANG said that the Administration had advised members at previous meetings that the importation of chilled meat from the Mainland would begin in 2005, but the arrangement had yet to come into operation. He suggested that the Administration should be invited to brief members on the latest developments of the importation arrangements at the next meeting on 14 February 2006. Members agreed.

4. Acting Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) (Ag DS(FEH)) said that the Administration might have one

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or two additional items for discussion at the next regular meeting on 14 February 2006, and would inform members once confirmed.

5. Mr Tommy CHEUNG expressed dissatisfaction that while the schedule of Panel regular meetings had been issued well in advance, the Administration still could not advise members of its proposed items for discussion at the next regular meeting. He urged the Administration to have better planning of work and give sufficient notice of proposed discussion items for the Panel's consideration.

6. The Chairman said that he would consider the urgency of the additional item(s) proposed by the Administration before deciding whether such item(s) should be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting. Members agreed.

III. Information paper(s) issued since last meeting

7. Members noted that the Administration had not provided any information paper since the last meeting.

IV. Additional Columbarium at Diamond Hill

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 850/05-06(03)]

8. The Chairman said that the item involved a financial proposal from the Administration.

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that he agreed to the proposal to construct an additional columbarium at Diamond Hill. However, Dr KWOK expressed concern that if the additional niches to be provided would be sold out shortly, the crematorium facilities at Diamond Hill would be wasted. He raised the following questions –

- (a) whether the Administration would re-consider not to reduce the number of niches in the proposed columbarium from 20 000 to 18 500, given that there was a strong demand for Government niches and it was difficult to identify suitable sites for the construction of columbaria;
- (b) whether the design of the columbarium would allow for future expansion, such as the construction of additional storeys; and
- (c) when the additional niches would be sold out.

10. Ag DS(FEH) responded that under the original plan, 20 000 niches were to be provided in the new columbarium block at Diamond Hill. When Wong Tai Sin District Council (WTSDC) was consulted on the plan, members of WTSDC expressed concern about the crowd control and traffic arrangements during Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. To address these concerns, changes were made to the

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proposed project, including reduction in the number of niches from 20 000 to 18 500. Ag DS(FEH) said that the additional niches were expected to be sold out in about two years. He added that the crematorium facilities at Diamond Hill could continue to provide cremation services to the public even though the niches at Diamond Hill were sold out.

11. Ag DS(FEH) further said that to meet the anticipated demand for Government niches, the Administration was consulting the relevant DCs on plans to construct new columbarium blocks providing over 100 000 niches at places such as Kwai Chung and Wo Hop Shek within the next decade.

12. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DD/FEHD) supplemented that it was Government's plan to increase the columbarium facilities to alleviate the problem of insufficient niches. It was estimated that an additional 20 000 niches would be required each year. The Administration had to consult the relevant DCs and solicit views of the residents in the respective districts, as most people did not like to have crematorium and columbarium in their neighbourhood. DD/FEHD pointed out that when a committee of Kwai Tsing DC was consulted on the proposal to build columbarium blocks providing some 40 000 new niches in the existing site in Kwai Chung Columbaria, the Committee passed a motion to veto the proposal. DD/FEHD further said that to meet the demand for new niches, the Administration would strive to provide additional niches as far as possible. To this end, the Administration was working on the plan to provide new columbarium facilities in Tuen Mun Area 46.

13. Referring to the design of the proposed columbarium at Enclosure 3 to the Administration's paper, Chief Project Manager/Architectural Services Department (CPM/ArchSD) said that to facilitate crowd control and traffic arrangements as well as to harmonise with the surrounding environment, the proposed columbarium had adopted the design of a landscaped garden, together with a rooftop garden and open space on the ground floor. He envisaged that there would be technical problems if the design was to be revised.

14. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that there would be a strong demand for the new niches in the new columbarium block which was located in urban area. He urged the Administration to critically review whether the number of niches provided in the proposed columbarium block in Diamond Hill should be reverted to 20 000 as originally planned.

15. CPM/ArchSD said that the Administration would need to consider the feasibility of making allowance in the piling works so that additional storeys could be built in the future when necessary. The Administration would also need to study the traffic impact of the proposal.

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16. In response to the Chairman, Ag DS(FEH) said that the design of a landscaped garden had been adopted and open space would be provided on the ground floor where no niches would be provided.

17. The Chairman concluded that members did not raise objection to the Administration submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee in February 2006.

V. Any other business

Report of the Subcommittee to Study the Streamlining of Food Business Licensing

18. Members noted the report of the Subcommittee to Study the Streamlining of Food Business Licensing.

19. The Chairman reminded members that the joint meeting with the Panel on Environmental Affairs would be held immediately after this meeting to discuss the Administration's response on the reorganisation plan for the food safety regulatory framework.

20. The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 February 2006