

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

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Panel on Housing

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2005, at 4:50 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Wing-tat (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2
Mr WONG Siu-ye

Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Ms Caris CHAN
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1

Miss Queenie LAM
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Chairman in office, invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Mr James TO nominated Mr CHAN Kam-lam for the chairmanship. In accordance with the election procedures, Mr LEE Wing-tat, Deputy Chairman in office, took over the chair and presided at the election. The nomination was seconded by Mr Abraham SHEK and accepted by Mr CHAN Kam-lam.

3. There being no other nomination, Mr CHAN Kam-lam was declared Chairman of the Panel.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. Mr CHAN Kam-lam took the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship.

5. Mr Abraham SHEK nominated Mr LEE Wing-tat for the deputy chairmanship and the nomination was seconded by Mr Patrick LAU. Mr LEE Wing-tat accepted the nomination.

6. There being no other nomination, Mr LEE Wing-tat was declared Deputy Chairman of the Panel.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2005-06 session

7. Members agreed that the regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the first Monday of each month at 2:30 pm except for January 2006 and May 2006, which would be held on Thursday, 5 January 2006, at 2:30 pm and Tuesday, 9 May 2005, at 4:30 pm respectively.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

8. The Chairman informed members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, 20 October 2005, at 8:30 am for the Administration to brief members on the progress of divestment of the Housing Authority (HA)'s retail and car-parking facilities.

9. Given the short notice, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that some members might not be able to attend the meeting due to prior engagement. He enquired about the possibility of discussing the issue at the next regular meeting scheduled for 7 November 2005. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also agreed to the rescheduling of the special meeting to a later date. While agreeing that the special meeting should be rescheduled to facilitate members' participation, the Deputy Chairman did not agree to discuss the issue at the next regular meeting on 7 November 2005 because it would be too late.

10. The Chairman said that a number of dates had been explored and the one on 20 October 2005 was considered most appropriate because if the meeting was held too early, the Administration might not be able to release too much information when the divestment was still in progress. If the meeting was held too late, then the Administration would have decided the detailed arrangements and this would defeat the purpose of briefing the Panel before making any important decisions. Besides, there were not many dates to choose from because the policy briefings by Directors of Bureaux and the motion debate on the Policy Address were all to be held in the last two weeks of October 2005.

11. In view of the difficulty in finding another suitable date, members agreed to hold the special meeting on Thursday, 20 October 2005, as originally scheduled. Mr Abraham SHEK suggested that consideration should be given for the Administration to hold a separate briefing for those members who could not attend the special meeting. The Chairman agreed to relay Mr SHEK's view to the Administration.

12. Mr Albert CHAN said that he had issued letters to the Administration seeking clarification on some legal aspects of the divestment. He would forward these letters to the Secretariat for distribution to members. He also considered it necessary to invite the legal adviser to attend the special meeting.

13. The Chairman reminded members of the policy briefing by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands in respect of the housing portfolio to be held on Friday, 21 October 2005, at 12:15 pm.

14. Members discussed the list of outstanding items for discussion and agreed that the following items be included for future discussion -

- (a) Impact of the relaxation of security of tenure on tenants;

- (b) Allocation of public rental housing (PRH) flats for the elderly to other PRH applicants;
- (c) Policy on express allocation of PRH flats; and
- (d) New policy on one-person applicants for PRH.

15. Noting that the judicial review of HA's decisions to defer the review of PRH rents would be concluded soon, Mr Alan LEONG asked if the Panel would consider discussing the issue beforehand. The Chairman said that it would be more appropriate to wait for the delivery of the judgement. Besides, the item had already been included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

16. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting to be held on Monday, 7 November 2005, at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Review of the policy on overcrowding relief;
- (b) Total Maintenance Scheme for PRH estates; and
- (c) Additional support and care services for visually impaired residents in PRH estates.

(Post-meeting note: The item on review of the policy on overcrowding relief was subsequently taken out from the agenda as the Administration required more time to consider the issue.)

IV. Any other business

17. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:10 pm.