

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)158/06-07

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/HG/1

Panel on Housing

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 11:10 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon LEE Wing-tat (Chairman)
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

Members absent : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Clerk in attendance : Ms Connie SZETO
Chief Council Secretary (1)6

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG

Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Sarah YUEN
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Ms Debbie YAU
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Mr Justin TAM
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Michelle NIEN
Legislative Assistant (1)9

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Chairman in office, invited nominations for the chairmanship for the 2006-2007 session.

2. Mr Albert HO nominated Mr LEE Wing-tat for the chairmanship. The nomination was seconded by Mr James TO and Mrs Selina CHOW. Mr LEE accepted the nomination.

3. There being no other nomination, Mr LEE Wing-tat was declared Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. Mr LEE Wing-tat took the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship for the 2006-2007 session.

5. Mr CHAN Kam-lam nominated Mr LI Kwok-ying for the deputy chairmanship and the nomination was seconded by Mr Albert HO and Mr Patrick LAU. Mr LI accepted the nomination.

6. There being no other nomination, Mr LI Kwok-ying was declared Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session

7. The Panel's proposed schedule of regular meetings for the 2006-2007 session was tabled at the meeting.

8. Members agreed that the monthly regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the first Monday of each month at 2:30 pm except for January 2007 and July 2007, which were public holidays. The regular meetings for the two months would be held on Thursday, 4 January 2007, at 2:30 pm and Tuesday, 17 July 2007, at 4:30 pm respectively.

(Post-meeting note: The endorsed meeting schedule for the 2006-2007 session was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)76/06-07 on 18 October 2006.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

Special meeting in October 2006

9. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, 19 October 2006, at 10:30 am for the Administration to brief members on the relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive (CE)'s Policy Address 2006-2007.

Regular meeting in November 2006

10. Members agreed that the next regular meeting of the Panel be held on Monday, 6 November 2006, at 2:30 pm to discuss "Marking Scheme for Tenancy Enforcement in public housing estates" proposed by the Administration. As to the second discussion item for the meeting, Mr WONG Kwok-hing proposed that the Panel should follow up the subject on Review of Domestic Rent Policy (the Review), in particular the issue of implementing rent relief measures before introducing the new rent adjustment mechanism.

11. Mr Tommy CHEUNG declared interest as a member of the Housing Authority (HA). He pointed out that a special meeting had already been held on 26 September 2006 to discuss the Review and cast doubt on the need to revisit the subject within a short time. In his view, HA should be given some time to consider the views expressed by members at the special meeting before giving a further response. Mr CHAN Kam-lam supplemented that the Ad Hoc Committee on Review of Domestic Rent Policy (the Committee) would likely submit its recommendations to HA in late November or December 2006. As such, it might be more appropriate to revisit the subject at the regular meeting of the Panel in December or immediately after the Committee had reported to HA. Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Miss CHAN Yuen-han, however, saw a need to revisit the Review before HA made the initial decision. They were of the view that although Legislative Council (LegCo) Members had expressed their views on the Review in previous Panel meetings, the Administration seemed to have failed to heed their views and public concern in this regard had not been fully addressed. While concurring with Mr CHAN that the Panel could invite the Administration to brief members on the initial decision when such was available, the Chairman said that

he was open on whether the item should be scheduled for discussion at the regular meeting on 6 November 2006.

12. Pointing out that members had already expressed their views on the Review at the meeting on 26 September 2006, Mr Tommy CHEUNG re-iterated that it might not be an efficient arrangement for the Panel to discuss the subject again within a short timeframe. Moreover, as nearly all political parties were represented on HA, HA should be aware of the views expressed by LegCo Members. Mr Albert CHAN disagreed with Mr CHEUNG's views and pointed out that not all political parties were represented on HA. He opined that members or parties not so represented should not be denied the opportunity to put forward their views again at an additional Panel meeting. He also stressed the need for LegCo to perform its independent constitutional role notwithstanding some LegCo Members' representation on HA.

13. Mrs Selina CHOW emphasized that members had expressed their views on the Review at the special meeting on 26 September 2006 and previous meetings. Unless there was new development, revisiting the subject in another meeting might not be fruitful. Mr Tommy CHEUNG clarified that he had no intention to stop other members from expressing their views on the subject but since the item had been discussed only recently, it might be more advisable to devote meeting time to the discussion of other housing-related issues. Mr Albert CHAN remained unconvinced and reiterated the need to revisit the subject.

14. The Chairman said that consideration could be given to schedule the item on arrangements for selling first-hand residential units for discussion at the meeting on 6 November 2006. The suggestion was supported by Messrs CHAN Kam-lam and Tommy CHEUNG. Mr CHAN Kam-lam proposed that the Panel should discuss problems encountered in proposed public housing development. He expressed concern about the opposition raised by certain District Councils to HA's proposed housing development programmes in their respective districts, which might have implications on the disposal of HA sites and pace of flat allocation under the Waiting List.

15. After discussion, members agreed that the second discussion item for the meeting on 6 November 2006 be selected from among the three proposed items in paragraphs 10 and 14 above. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to the Panel to issue a circular inviting members to indicate their preference. Members further agreed that items not selected for discussion at the meeting on 6 November 2006 be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. In this regard, Mr Patrick LAU suggested that the item on arrangements regarding the resumption of sale of Home Ownership Scheme flats be included in the list as well.

(Post-meeting note: On the advice of the Chairman, the start time of the 6 November 2006 meeting was deferred to 4:30 pm. A circular on the revised start time and the agenda for the meeting was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)67/06-07 on 16 October 2006.)

IV. Any other business

16. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:30 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 October 2006