

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)163/14-15

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 9 October 2014, at 10:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

- Member absent** : Hon WONG Yuk-man

Clerk in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Mr Jove CHAN
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Josephine SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Mr Richard WONG
Council Secretary (2) 2

Ms Camy YOONG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2/Clerical Assistant (2) 2

Action

I. Election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2014-2015 session
(Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/14-15)

Election of Chairman

Dr Helena WONG, Chairman of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2014-2015 session. Mr Tommy CHEUNG was nominated by Mr Steven HO and the nomination was seconded by Mr Vincent FANG. Mr Tommy CHEUNG accepted the nomination. Dr Helena WONG called for other nominations.

2. Ms Cyd HO nominated Dr Helena WONG and Dr Kenneth CHAN seconded the nomination. Dr Helena WONG accepted the nomination.

3. Mr WONG Kwok-hing, member of the highest precedence in the Council among other members present, took over from Dr Helena WONG to preside over the election of the Chairman. Mr WONG Kwok-hing called for other nominations. As there was no other nomination, Mr WONG announced that voting be conducted by secret ballot. After all members present had cast their votes, Mr WONG invited Mr Steven HO and Ms Cyd HO, who had nominated the two candidates, to monitor the counting of votes.

Action

4. Mr WONG Kwok-hing announced that 14 and nine members voted for Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Dr Helena WONG respectively. Mr WONG declared Mr Tommy CHEUNG elected as the Chairman of the Panel for 2014-2015 session. Mr Tommy CHEUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

5. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Helena WONG was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Ms Claudia MO. Dr Helena WONG accepted the nomination. The Chairman called for other nominations.

6. Mr CHAN Han-pan nominated Mr Steven HO and Mr Christopher CHUNG seconded the nomination. Mr Steven HO accepted the nomination.

7. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced that voting be conducted by secret ballot. After all members present had cast their votes, the Chairman invited Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Mr CHAN Han-pan, who had nominated the two candidates, to monitor the counting of votes.

8. The Chairman announced that 10 and 14 members voted for Dr Helena WONG and Mr Steven HO respectively. The Chairman declared Mr Steven HO elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for 2014-2015 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2014-2015 session

9. Members agreed that future regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2014-2015 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)34/14-15 on 10 October 2014.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/14-15)

Regular meeting in November 2014

10. Members noted that the Administration proposed the following three items for discussion at the next regular meeting scheduled for 11 November 2014 -

- (a) Reprovisioning of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Sai Yee Street Environmental Hygiene

Action

Offices-cum-Vehicle Depot to Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon reclamation area;

- (b) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Refuse Collection Point within a Residential Development at Fuk Wa Street/Fuk Wing Street/Camp Street Site, Shamshuipo, Kowloon; and
- (c) Promoting safe and proper use of pesticides.

11. Dr Helena WONG, Mr WONG Kwok-hing and the Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the quality and food safety of cooking oil and considered that the Panel should continue to follow up on the sub-standard lard incident, which had been discussed at the special meeting on 25 September 2014. Mr WONG Kwok-hing and the Deputy Chairman raised similar requests for the Administration to update the Panel on the latest development of the sub-standard lard incident and the food safety issues of cooking oil as early as possible, preferably in the November regular meeting.

12. Dr Helena WONG said that she had sent a letter to the Chairman of the Panel on Environmental Affairs ("the EA Panel") for the 2013-2014 session on 8 October 2014 suggesting the holding of a joint meeting by the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the EA Panel to follow up on the progress of the investigation of the sub-standard lard incident and the regulation of the recycling of used cooking oil.

(Post-meeting note: The letter dated 8 October 2014 from Dr Helena WONG to the Chairman of the EA Panel was issued to members on 10 October 2014 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)35/14-15.)

13. Noting members' concerns and views, the Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with the Administration to see whether the subject relating to the sub-standard lard incident and the food safety issues of cooking oil would be ready for discussion and consult the Chairman on the agenda for the next meeting in November 2014.

(Post-meeting note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman decided to defer the discussion on item "Promoting safe and proper use of pesticides" to a later Panel meeting, and add a new item on "Update on the sub-standard lard incident and the food safety issues of cooking oil" to the agenda of the November meeting. The agenda was issued to members on 15 October 2014 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)69/14-15.)

Proposed items for discussion at future meetings

14. Dr Helena WONG expressed a wish that the Administration should brief the Panel as early as possible on the progress of the review on

Action

legislation relating to the regulation of cooked meat. She also hoped that the Administration would update the Panel when the results of investigation into Husi food factories by the Mainland authorities were made known to the Administration. Members noted that an item "Regulation of cooked meat" had already been included in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

15. Dr Helena WONG expressed concern about the safety standards for heavy metals in food and urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation for regulating the presence of heavy metals in food. She hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting. Dr WONG was also concerned about the regulation of pesticide residues in vegetables imported from the Mainland and the effectiveness of the food tracing mechanism in facilitating the Administration to identify the source of the problem vegetables. She hoped that the Panel would continue to follow up the subject matter.

16. Mr Michael TIEN said that as there was a lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry, wholesalers could only put chilled meat and poultry into temporary storage in vehicles equipped with refrigeration facilities and in freezers to carry out the process of dividing and distributing chilled meat and poultry. He was worried that the improper handling of chilled meat and poultry might pose risk to public health. Mr TIEN pointed out that the trade had made repeated requests for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre by the Government for the chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks. He hoped that the Panel would discuss the subject matter at a Panel meeting.

17. Noting that the Administration proposed to discuss the development of sustainable agriculture in January to March 2015, the Deputy Chairman requested an early discussion on the item. He also hoped that the Panel would follow up on his earlier suggestion for the Panel to organize an overseas duty visit to Taiwan to study its agricultural development.

18. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that he hoped the Administration would update the Panel on the latest progress of increasing the supply of public niches and measures on how to protect consumers' rights of those who had entered into transactions for the purchase of private columbarium niches before the enactment of the Private Columbaria Bill.

19. Ms Starry LEE expressed concern about the impact of recent assemblies and occupation of roads arising from these assemblies on the operating environment of hawker stalls and the wholesale stalls in the fresh food wholesale markets. She suggested an early discussion on the subject and hoped that the Panel would invite the affected hawkers and stall operators to give views.

Action

20. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the list of outstanding items for discussion would be updated to reflect members' suggestions. He would convey members' views and suggestions to the Administration during the informal meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health.

IV. Any other business

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets and Subcommittee on Hawker Policy

21. Members noted that the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets and the Subcommittee on Hawker Policy, set up under the Panel, would continue their work in the 2014-2015 session. Members agreed that the membership of these two Subcommittees should be re-opened to Panel members, and also noted that existing members of these two Subcommittees who had not given written notice to withdraw their membership would remain as members of the Subcommittees concerned.

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:33 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 October 2014