# 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)263/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/SS/16/16/1

Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2017

Minutes of first meeting held on Monday, 16 October 2017, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

**Members present**: Hon Tanya CHAN (Chairman)

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP

Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

**Member absent** : Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

**Public Officers** attending

For item II

Dr Samuel CHUI, JP

Assistant Director (Nature Conservation &

Infrastructure Planning)

**Environmental Protection Department** 

Ms Vivian CHAN
Senior Administrative Officer (Nature Conservation)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Patrick LAI Assistant Director (Country & Marine Parks) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor Senior Country Parks Officer (NW) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Ms Wendy HO Government Counsel Department of Justice

**Clerk in Attendance:** Miss Cindy HO

Chief Council Secretary (1)1

**Staff in attendance**: Ms Vanessa CHENG

Assistant Legal Adviser 5

Mr Joey LO

Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Miss Mandy POON

Legislative Assistant (1)1

#### Action

### I. Election of Chairman

Mr CHAN Hak-kan, the member with the highest precedence among those who were present at the meeting, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Subcommittee. He invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Subcommittee.

- 2. Ms Tanya CHAN was nominated by Mr YIU Si-wing and the nomination was seconded by Mr HUI Chi-fung. Ms Tanya CHAN accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Ms Tanya CHAN was declared Chairman of the Subcommittee.
- 3. <u>Members</u> agreed that there was no need to elect a Deputy Chairman.

#### <u>Action</u>

## II. Meeting with the Administration

(L.N. 141 of 2017 — Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2017

File Ref: EP CR 9/15/6 — Legislative Council Brief

LC Paper No. LS99/16-17 — Legal Service Division Report

LC Paper No. CB(1)15/17-18(01) — Marked-up copy of relevant provisions to be amended by

the subsidiary legislation prepared by the Legal Service Division (Restricted to

members)

LC Paper No. CB(1)15/17-18(02) — Background brief prepared by

the Legislative Council

Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(1)15/17-18(03) — Gazetted maps with

indications of the areas to be incorporated into the country parks provided by the

Administration)

## **Discussion**

4. <u>The Subcommittee</u> deliberated (index of proceedings attached at the **Annex**).

Follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

Admin 5. <u>The Administration</u> was requested to provide information on the following:

The building of small houses in country parks

(a) the respective number of applications for the building of small houses in recognized villages within the boundary of country parks received, approved and rejected by the Administration since the handover in 1997;

#### Action

Compensation claims under section 19 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208)

(b) the respective number of claims made and granted under section 19 of Cap. 208 in relation to the Country and Marine Parks Authority's decisions on the land use in country parks so far;

#### Sai Wan Management

- (c) records of discussion of the Working Group on Sai Wan Management; and
- (d) details of the funding proposal of \$9.5 million approved by the Environment and Conservation Fund for a non-governmental organization to implement a Management Agreement project at Sai Wan enclave through engagement of the local community and public.

(*Post-meeting note*: The Administration's written response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)125/17-18(02) on 26 October 2017).

## III. Any other business

#### Invitation of views

6. <u>Members</u> considered it not necessary for the Subcommittee to receive public views on the Amendment Order.

## Legislative timetable

7. The Chairman concluded that the Subcommittee had completed the scrutiny of the Amendment Order and would not propose any amendment to the Amendment Order. Members noted that the Chairman of the House Committee ("HC") would move a resolution at the Council meeting of 18 October 2017 to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Order to the Council meeting of 8 November 2017. The Chairman reminded members that if the scrutiny period was extended, the deadline for giving notice of amendment to the Amendment Order was 1 November 2017. The Chairman would report the deliberations of the Subcommittee to HC on 27 October 2017.

#### Action

(*Post-meeting note*: As the proposed resolution to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Order to 8 November 2017 was not dealt with at the Council meeting of 18 October 2017, the scrutiny period of the Amendment Order had therefore expired at the said Council meeting.)

8. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:18 am.

Council Business Division 1
<a href="Legislative Council Secretariat">Legislative Council Secretariat</a>
23 November 2017

# Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2017

# Proceedings of the first meeting on Monday, 16 October 2017, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required	
Agenda Item I —	Agenda Item I — Election of Chairman			
000406 - 000527	Mr CHAN Hak-kan Mr YIU Si-wing Ms Tanya CHAN Mr HUI Chi-fung	Election of Chairman		
Agenda Item II –	Meeting with the Adi	ministration		
000528 - 000708	Chairman	Opening remarks		
000709 - 001132	Administration	Briefing by the Administration on the Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2017 ("the Amendment Order") (L.N. 141 of 2017)		
001133- 002606	Chairman Mr Kenneth LAU Mr CHAN Hak-kan Administration	Discussion on the rationale for incorporating the three enclaves into country parks, and whether the proposed inclusion was consistent with the government policy.  Regarding the Administration's consultation work in reviewing and assessing the enclaves to be incorporated into country parks, Mr Kenneth LAU and Mr CHAN Hak-kan had expressed grave concern that the views of Heung Yee Kuk had not been sought during the Country and Marine Parks Authority ("the Authority")'s consultation with relevant stakeholders. They were of the view that relevant developments of enclaves on Government land would have across the board implication on other enclaves located on private land in rural areas, the Authority should consult the Heung Yee Kuk on such important policy issues.  Mr CHAN Hak-kan suggested that the Administration should consider providing a mechanism to compensate those landowners whose land was incorporated into a country park for their loss of possible opportunities for land development, or setting up a conservation fund to provide compensation to landowners		

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		for their financial loss due to the implementation of Government initiatives on conservation. He also pointed out that there were precedent cases of the Administration offering land exchange for a site with conservation value, citing the example of the ecological conservation project at Sha Lo Tung.	
		The Administration advised that in accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance ("CPO")(Cap. 208), no compensation shall be paid to the owner of, or to any person interested in, any land because it was situated within or was affected by a country park. However, as announced in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, to enhance the conservation of remote countryside areas, the Government would set up a multi-disciplinary Countryside Conservation Office ("the Office") to coordinate conservation projects to protect the natural ecology of the countryside, revitalize its village architectural environment, and conserve the precious cultural resources. In this connection, the issues raised by members in this area could be further explored by the Office.	
002607 - 003156	Chairman Mr YIU Si-wing Administration	Discussion on management of the land in a country park enclave after incorporation into a country park.  Discussion on implications of the inclusion of an enclave into a country park to the living environment of the local villagers and other local economic activities.	
003157 - 003833	Chairman Mr Steven HO Administration	Discussion on how the Administration had addressed the concerns raised by stakeholders during the consultation process.	
003834 - 004325	Chairman Mr HUI Chi-fung Administration	Discussion on whether there had been cases involving unauthorized development, pollution or vandalism in the three enclaves.	
		In response to Mr HUI's enquiry, the Administration advised that once the enclaves were included to their respective country parks under CPO, the Authority would take active management of the areas. Incompatible land developments and activities within the country	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		park areas were unlikely to be approved. The conservation and management of the enclaves would be enhanced to ensure the integrity and landscape value of the sites and the adjacent country parks. For the visitors, country park facilities would be provided and signage/notice boards would be installed to promote outdoor safety. Publicity and education programmes would be implemented to encourage the appreciation of the nature and to remind visitors not to spoil the natural environment. The visitors would also bring business opportunities to local villagers.	
004326 - 004929	Chairman Dr Elizabeth QUAT Administration	Discussion on the Administration's efforts in providing financial support for engaging villagers in enhancing conservation of the sites concerned.  The Administration advised that, in respect of financial support for engaging villagers in conservation of land, the Management Agreement ("MA") Scheme under the New Nature Conservation Policy has been extended in 2011 to cover country park enclaves as well as private land within country parks. Under the MA Scheme, funding support would be granted to enable competent non-profit making organizations to enter into management agreements with landowners to organize conservation activities which were compatible with the land uses and country park objectives within private land in country parks or their enclaves. The Administration had undertaken to assist interested villagers in applying for funds under the MA Scheme for conservation activities and obtaining the necessary licences for operating small business within country parks.	
004930 - 011545	Chairman Mr LEUNG Checheung Mr CHU Hoi-dick Mr Kenneth LAU Dr Elizabeth QUAT Administration	Discussion on implications of the incorporation of private land into a country park on the ownership and development potential of the land, and the possibility of providing mechanism to compensate the landowners.  In response to Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's enquiry regarding applications for building of	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		small houses within the boundaries of country parks since the handover in 1997, the Administration agreed to provide the information in writing.	Admin (paragraph 5 (a) and (b) of the minutes refers)
		The Administration clarified that after incorporation of an enclave as part of a country park, the uses of private land in the enclave that were permitted under existing land leases would not be affected under CPO. The Administration advised that whenever the Authority was of the opinion that any proposed use of any private land by the occupier within a country park would substantially reduce the enjoyment and amenities of the country park, the occupier might be prohibited from proceeding with the proposed use. Any aggrieved occupiers might object and if overruled could seek compensation according to procedures prescribed under CPO. In response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's enquiry, the Administration advised that no such claims for compensation had been received in relation to the Authority's decisions on the land use in country parks so far.	
		Members were informed that the Environment and Conservation Fund approved a funding support of about \$9.5 million for a nongovernmental organization to implement a MA project at Sai Wan enclave to conserve the natural habitats, showcase the cultural uniqueness and enhance the amenity value of the area through engagement of the local community and public. Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr CHU Hoi-dick have requested the Administration to report progress of its work since the incorporation of the Sai Wan enclave as part of the Sai Kung East Country Park. In this regard, the Administration agreed to provide the requested information for members' reference.  With reference to the judicial review launched by CHAN Ka-lam against the Authority's non-recommendation decision relating to six enclaves where it was ruled that the Authority was not in breach of any legal obligation in not referring its conclusions to Country and Marine Parks Board ("CMPB") for consideration and advice, the Chairman	Admin (paragraph 5 (c) and (d) of the minutes refers)

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		expressed concern on whether there was any further appeal relating to the case as the judgment might have implication on the future work of CMPB. The Administration advised that the applicant had lodged an appeal in July 2017 against the decision of the court and it would seek legal advice from the Department of Justice in the light of new development of the judicial proceeding currently underway.	
Section-by-section examination of the  Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2017  [The Amendment Order (L.N. 141 of 2017)]  [Marked-up copy of the Amendment Order prepared by the Legal Service Division (LC Paper No. CB(1)15/17-18(01)]			
011546 - 012006	Chairman Administration	Section 1 — Commencement  Section 2 — Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) Order amended  Section 3 — Schedule amended  Members raised no query.  The Chairman concluded that the Subcommittee was in support of the Amendment Order.	
Agenda Item III — Any other business			
012007 - 012224	Chairman Administration	Legislative timetable	

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 23 November 2017