

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)229/17-18
(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, 12 October 2017, at 5:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS (Chairman)
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Member attending : Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP

Members absent : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Clerk in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Wendy LO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Michelle TANG
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

Ms Camy YOONG
Clerical Assistant (2) 2

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2017-2018 session
(Appendices II, III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)5/17-18)

Election of Chairman

Dr Helena WONG, Chairman of the Panel for the 2016-2017 session, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2017-2018

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session. Mr Steven HO was nominated by Mr CHAN Hak-kan and the nomination was seconded by Mr WONG Ting-kwong. Mr Steven HO accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Dr Helena WONG declared Mr Steven HO elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session. Mr Steven HO then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Kwok Ka-ki was nominated by Ms Claudia MO and the nomination was seconded by Ms Tanya CHAN. Dr KWOK Ka-ki accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr KWOK Ka-ki elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2017-2018 session

5. Members agreed to hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm.

6. The Chairman informed members that taking into consideration that most of the Panel meetings held in the last session had been extended to last for more than two hours due to the number of items discussed at those meetings, the Secretariat had reserved a three-hour timeslot, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, for each of the regular meetings scheduled for the months of November and December 2017 as well as February, March and May 2018. The Chairman advised that he might adjust/change the end time of the meetings having regard to the number of discussion items on the agenda of respective meetings.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)41/17-18 on 13 October 2017.)

Policy briefing on 31 October 2017

7. The Chairman said that a meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, 31 October 2017 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health on the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address in respect of the portfolio of food safety and environmental hygiene.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)5/17-18)

Regular meeting in November 2017

8. Members agreed to discuss the following two items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 14 November 2017:

- (a) Dutiable Commodities (Liquor Licences) (Fees) Amendment Regulation; and
- (b) Rolling out of the Internet Protocol Camera Scheme to all districts and other keep clean measures.

9. The Chairman said that he would explore whether one more item could be included into the agenda for the November meeting. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, the title of the agenda item as referred to in paragraph 8(b) above was phrased as "Extension of the Internet Protocol Camera Scheme to all districts and other keep clean measures for enhancing environmental hygiene and eradicating rodent infestation" to cover under this item the discussion on the Government's efforts in rodent control. After liaising with the Administration, the Chairman had also instructed that an additional item "Initiatives on the reduction of salt and sugar in food", an item which was already in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (Appendix V to LC Paper No. CB(2)5/17-18), be included into the agenda. The notice of the regular meeting in November 2017 was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)116/17-18 on 23 October 2017.)

Items proposed for discussion at future meetings

Government's policy on hawker and bazaar activities

10. Mr HO Kai-ming considered that the Panel should follow up on issues relating to the Government's policy on hawker and bazaar activities, including the implementation progress of the five-year Assistance Scheme for Hawkers in Fixed-pitch Hawker Areas and the management of the 43 fixed-pitch hawker areas covered by the scheme. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan hoped that when the item was discussed by the Panel, the Administration would update members on the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")'s hawker control work, with particular emphasis on its

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enforcement strategy/operations against hawking activities in various districts including hawking blackspots such as Sham Shui Po.

11. Ms Starry LEE proposed that issues concerning the promotion and development of streets with special characteristics be discussed in the future. The Chairman said that the issue might fall within the purview of other Panels.

12. Mr SHIU Ka-chun advised that the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars had discussed the proposal to conduct an overseas duty visit to understand the policy/experience of selected place(s) (e.g. Australia) in the development of bazaars. The Subcommittee decided to refer the proposal of conducting an overseas duty visit to this Panel for consideration. The Chairman said that it was his understanding that the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Bazaars was about to conclude its work and submit a report to the House Committee. This Panel could consider whether and how the Subcommittee's recommendation(s)/proposal(s), if thereafter referred to this Panel, should be followed up. Mr SHIU said that he would consider preparing and submitting to this Panel for consideration a paper proposing to conduct an overseas duty visit.

Enhancing animal welfare

13. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights, formed under the Panel and commenced work in December 2016, would soon conclude its work and report to this Panel. He hoped that this Panel would follow up on the recommendation(s) to be put forward by the Subcommittee in its report. He and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel should discuss the policy and measures adopted by the Government on the management of stray animals, including the effectiveness of the "Capture-Sterilization-Relocation" programme implemented in Sai Kung and Lantau Island for tackling the issue of stray cattle. Mrs Regina IP suggested that the Panel should also discuss the measures taken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") for tackling the nuisances caused by boars to the community. She said that boars straying into residential areas could threaten human safety and property.

14. Ms Claudia MO, Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr KWONG Chun-yu said that the Panel should follow up with the Administration regarding the latter's review of the existing legislation related to animal welfare and consideration of enacting comprehensive legislation on animal protection. Noting that the Administration planned to explore the feasibility of introducing a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers (a new initiative in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address), Ms MO hoped that the Administration

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would brief the Panel in detail its plan. Regarding the three-year "Trap-Neuter-Return" trial programme for reducing the population of stray dogs, she considered it necessary for the Administration to report to this Panel on the effectiveness of the trial programme and the proposed way forward.

15. Mr KWONG Chun-yu suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the setting up of "animal police" teams specially tasked to investigate into cases of animal cruelty and abandonment, as well as the mechanism adopted by AFCD and the Police for handling complaints against animals.

Provision and management of public markets

16. Mr HO Kai-ming hoped that the Administration could report to the Panel on the provision of new public markets in various districts as well as its progress in following up the recommendations of the consultancy study on improving the operating environment of existing public markets. Ms Starry LEE added that the Administration should also update members on FEHD's progress in taking forward the installation of air-conditioning in public markets and measures for improving the facilities and operating environment of public markets.

Environmental cleanliness and hygiene

17. Mr CHAN Han-pan considered that FEHD should strengthen the refuse collection facilities/services in rural areas. He suggested that the matter be discussed by the Panel. Ms Starry LEE expressed concern about the measures taken by FEHD for improving environmental hygiene and eliminating hygiene blackspots. She said that it was her observation that the hygiene condition of some areas had got worse. In her view, the existing penalties for public cleanliness offences lacked deterrent effect. She hoped that the Panel would follow up these issues at a future meeting.

18. Mr CHU Hoi-dick suggested that the following issues be discussed by the Panel:

- (a) the quality of cleansing services outsourced by FEHD and the progress of FEHD's review of the cleansing contract tendering system; and
- (b) the corresponding measures to be taken by FEHD, e.g. enhancing street cleansing services and/or reviewing the management and design of refuse collection points, in order to complement the implementation of the municipal solid waste

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("MSW") charging scheme to be introduced by the Environment Bureau.

19. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed concern that the promotional stands set up by individuals who offered to buy second-hand electrical appliances and the appliances so collected had caused serious street obstruction in Sham Shui Po and attracted complaints from nearby shops and residents. She suggested that the matter be jointly discussed by this Panel and the Panel on Environmental Affairs ("EA Panel"). The Chairman said that as policy issues concerning MSW charging and recycling of electronic wastes fell under the purview of the EA Panel although enforcement against street obstruction and illegal posting activities was carried out by FEHD, he would discuss with the Chairman of the EA Panel on how the issues raised by Dr CHIANG could be followed up.

Food safety and other issues

20. Dr Helena WONG referred members to the information paper provided by the Administration on 9 October 2017 entitled "Food Safety Surveillance Mechanism for Imported Food" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2188/16-17(01)) and suggested that the Administration should be requested to brief members on the content of the paper which covered the developments of the incident concerning the quality of Brazilian frozen and chilled meat and poultry meat and the follow-up actions taken by the Centre for Food Safety in response to the incident of suspicious health certificate accompanying a consignment of frozen chicken feet imported from Brazil. She also suggested that the Panel should continue to follow up and discuss the import arrangements for hairy crabs in 2017. In her view, arrangements should be made for early discussion of items already placed on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (Appendix V to LC Paper No. CB(2)5/17-18), such as items 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 17.

21. The Deputy Chairman considered that the Administration should be requested to update members on the progress of its proposal to introduce in Hong Kong a mandatory pre-market safety assessment of genetically modified ("GM") food and its plan to encourage the trade to adopt the voluntary GM food labelling system.

22. Dr Elizabeth QUAT hoped that arrangement should be made for early discussion of the implementation progress of the major initiatives under the New Agriculture Policy.

23. Mr SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Panel should follow up and discuss issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market, including how the

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Administration would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of Tung Chau Street Market.

24. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that he would bring up the issues/suggestions raised by members at the forthcoming meeting with the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session.

IV. Any other business

Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights

25. Members noted that the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Animal Rights would continue its work in the 2017-2018 session. Members agreed that the membership of the Subcommittee should be re-opened to members of the Panel, and noted that existing members of the Subcommittee who had not given written notice to withdraw their membership would remain as members of the Subcommittee.

26. In response to Ms Claudia MO's enquiry about the need and possibility for the Subcommittee to work beyond 12 months, the Clerk advised that rule 26(c) of the House Rules provided that a subcommittee on policy issues should complete work within 12 months of its commencement and report to the House Committee or relevant Panel(s) as appropriate. Should the Subcommittee consider it necessary to work beyond that 12 months, it should, after obtaining the endorsement of this Panel, report to the House Committee and give justifications for an extension of the 12-month period.

27. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:54 pm.