立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. PWSC232/18-19 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

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Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 19th meeting held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Wednesday, 17 April 2019, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

Hon Claudia MO

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH

Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon HUI Chi-fung

Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai

Hon AU Nok-hin

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Member attending:

Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS

Members absent:

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH

Public officers attending:

Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial Services

and the Treasury (Treasury)3

Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP Permanent Secretary for Development

(Works)

Ms Bernadette LINN, JP Permanent Secretary for Development

(Planning and Lands)

Mr Elvis AU Wai-kwong, JP Deputy Director of Environmental

Protection (1)

Mr Denny HO Lap-ki Assistant Secretary for Financial Services

and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)1

Mr Bill WONG Kwok-piu Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and

Health (Food)3

Mr LAI Cheuk-ho Project Manager (North)

North Development Office

Civil Engineering and Development

Department

Ms Teresa MA Oi-suet Senior Engineer (North)6 (Acting)

North Development Office

Civil Engineering and Development

Department

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Conservation

Mr Peter MA Wai-chung Acting Assistant Director (Agriculture)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Doris LO Chief Council Secretary (1)2

Staff in attendance:

Mr Keith WONG

Ms Christina SHIU

Ms Christy YAU

Ms Clara LO

Council Secretary (1)2

Legislative Assistant (1)2

Legislative Assistant (1)8

Legislative Assistant (1)9

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The Chairman advised that there were six papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting, all of which were funding proposals carried over from the previous meeting. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council

("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the proposals. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development PWSC(2018-19)43 471RO The Establishment of an Agricultural Park in Kwu Tung South

2. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that the proposal, i.e. <u>PWSC(2018-19)43</u>, sought to upgrade part of 471RO to Category A at an estimated cost of \$176.6 million in money-of-the-day prices for the establishment of the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") Phase 1. The Subcommittee started discussing this paper at the meeting on 9 April 2019, and would continue with the discussion now.

Meeting arrangement

- 3. The Chairman said that the Bills Committee on Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 ("the Bills Committee") would hold its first meeting at 8:45 am in Conference Room 2. Given the relatively large membership size of the Bills Committee, he would suspend the Subcommittee meeting at that time so that the Bills Committee would have a quorum for its meeting, and after the completion of the election of its Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the Subcommittee meeting would resume.
- 4. Given the large membership size of the Bills Committee, Mr CHU Hoi-dick considered it highly inappropriate to schedule the Bills Committee meeting and the Subcommittee meeting within the same time slot.
- 5. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> pointed out that if the Bills Committee took a long time to complete the election of its Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the Subcommittee meeting would need to be suspended for a long time. He enquired whether the Chairman had discussed the relevant meeting arrangement with Mr Abraham SHEK, who had determined the time of the Bills Committee meeting. He also sought a response from the government officials attending the Subcommittee meeting on whether they felt disrespected by the meeting arrangement concerned.
- 6. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that this Subcommittee meeting was a regular one, and it was common for more than one LegCo committee to hold meetings within the same time slot.

- 7. <u>Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)</u> said that the government officials relevant to the agenda item had reserved time to attend this Subcommittee meeting. They respected the meeting arrangement as directed by the Chairman.
 - [At 8:42 am, the Chairman announced the suspension of the meeting.]
 - [At 10:11 am, the Secretariat sent short messages to all Subcommittee members to inform them of the Chairman's announcement that the meeting would resume in five minutes.]
 - [At 10:16 am, the Chairman announced the resumption of the meeting.]
- 8. Mr Gary FAN enquired why the Chairman had announced the resumption of the Subcommittee meeting before the completion of the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Bills Committee. He also opined that the notice of resumption of the meeting given by the Chairman was too short, rendering some members unable to return to the conference room in time to attend the meeting.
- 9. <u>The Chairman</u> said that Mr James TO, who presided over the Bills Committee meeting, had announced the suspension of the meeting, and he understood from Mr TO that the Bills Committee meeting would not resume before 10:30 am. <u>The Chairman</u> considered that since the Subcommittee meeting was scheduled to end at 10:30 am, it should resume during the suspension of the Bills Committee meeting.
- 10. As the officials from the Development Bureau ("DEVB") had not returned to the conference room, <u>Dr CHENG Chung-tai</u> queried how members could raise questions on the Agri-Park project with the DEVB officials in charge of the project.
- 11. <u>Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)3</u> advised that the establishment of the Agri-Park was a works project under the purview of the Food and Health Bureau. The representatives of that bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") were already present to answer members' questions.

Project to establish the Agri-Park Phase 1

- 12. Expressing the support of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong for the proposed project to establish the Agri-Park Phase 1, Mr Steven HO pointed out that the implementation of the project by the Administration was the outcome of its lengthy discussions and consultations with the agricultural sector. Even though there was still room for enhancing some infrastructures such as lodging facilities, the agricultural sector had agreed to the development approach of the Agri-Park currently proposed by the Administration. Moreover, noting that AFCD would set up a management advisory board to advise on the management and development of the Agri-Park, Mr HO requested that the management advisory board be set up expeditiously and representatives from the agricultural sector be invited to join the board before the commencement of the construction works for the Agri-Park Phase 1.
- 13. <u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u> ("DAFC") advised that while a mechanism was currently in place for maintaining communication with the agricultural sector and other stakeholders on the development approach of the Agri-Park, the Administration would also consider setting up the management advisory board as early as possible.
- 14. <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u> said that the Liberal Party supported the proposed project to establish the Agri-Park Phase 1.
- 15. <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> pointed out that farmers had all along requested the Administration to maintain their "living-cum-farming" lifestyle by providing them with lodging facilities in the Agri-Park for residential purpose, but as advised by the Administration, it would only consider their request when developing the Agri-Park Phase 2. She said that if the Administration refused to provide lodging facilities in the Agri-Park Phase 1, she would oppose this works project.
- 16. Mr CHU Hoi-dick suggested that if the farmers who were affected by the development of new development areas and had to surrender their land wished to continue farming, the Administration should consider arranging for them to adopt a "living-cum-farming" lifestyle while resuming farming in the Agri-Park Phase 1; and if they gave up farming in future, the Administration should then arrange for them to relocate to the public housing units dedicated to rehousing purpose.
- 17. <u>DAFC</u> advised that in order to achieve optimal land utilization, the land in the Agri-Park would be used for agricultural purpose as far as possible. To cater for the farming needs of farmers, the Administration would provide

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temporary basic lodging units in the Agri-Park Phase 1. It also planned to provide permanent basic lodging units in Phase 2, but such units could not be used for residential purpose.

18. The meeting ended at 10:29 am.

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 30 May 2019