

立法會
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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 4th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 13 November 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 CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

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

Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP

Hon Alvin YEUNG

Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Hon HO Kai-ming

Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH

Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Members attending:

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP

Members absent:

Hon Claudia MO
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon KWONG Chun-yu

Public officers attending:

Mr Howard LEE Man-sing	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)

Ms Maisie CHENG Mei-sze, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Ms Agnes HO Tsz Ting	Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Food) ⁷
Mrs Sylvia LAM YU Ka-wai, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mr Alex TSE Lok-man	Senior Project Manager 335 Architectural Services Department
Mr Ryan LIN Wai-tung	Senior Project Manager 321 Architectural Services Department
Mr Ricky WONG Chi-pan, JP	Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHOI Wing-hing	Chief Engineer (Land Works) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han	Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)
Mr Eric TSAI Yu-sing	Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Grade Management and Development)
Mr Anthony FOK Wai-kai	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Water Policy) (Acting)
Mr Kelvin LO Kwok-wah, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Mr Walter LEUNG Wing-yuen	Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects) Drainage Services Department

Mr David LEUNG Hon-wan

Chief Engineer (Consultants
Management)
Drainage Supplies 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

Action

The Chairman advised that there were seven papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting, all of which were funding proposals carried over from the meetings on 19 June 2019, 30 October 2019 and 6 November 2019. The seven funding proposals involved a total funding allocation of \$12,706.2 million. 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 703 – Building

PWSC(2019-20)14	24NB	Provision of columbarium, Garden of Remembrance and related works at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin
	28NB	Provision of columbarium and Garden of Remembrance at Sandy Ridge Cemetery (Phase 1 development)

Head 705 – Civil

193TB	Construction of subway in support of the provision of columbarium at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin
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2. The Chairman advised that the proposal, i.e. [PWSC\(2019-20\)14](#), sought to upgrade 24NB, 28NB and 193TB to Category A at estimated costs of \$859.5 million, \$1,240.5 million and \$227.4 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices respectively for the provision of columbaria in Shek Mun, Sha Tin and at Sandy Ridge Cemetery and the construction of a pedestrian subway underneath and across Tate's Cairn Highway connecting On Muk Street and the Shek Mun columbarium. The Subcommittee started discussing this paper at the meeting on 6 November, and would continue with the discussion at this meeting.

Providing facilities for commemorating abortuses

3. Mr Gary FAN welcomed the Administration's plan to provide facilities for keeping abortuses and scattering their ashes in the proposed columbaria in Shek Mun and at Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Mr FAN and Ms Tanya CHAN enquired about the details, including design, of such facilities.

4. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene) ("DD(EH)/FEHD") advised that there would be a Garden of Forever Love in each of the two proposed columbaria, measuring about 200 square metres and 300 square metres respectively, and each providing 300 keeping spaces for abortuses. Families could also choose to scatter the ashes of abortuses in the Gardens of Forever Love. Director of Architectural Services ("DArchS") added that flowers of different colours would be planted in the Garden of Forever Love at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery Columbaria, the landscape design of which would be integrated with the perimeter design of the columbarium.

5. Mr Gary FAN enquired whether the Administration had plans to construct new Gardens of Forever Love in existing columbaria.

6. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that the Government planned to consider providing Gardens of Forever Love in newly constructed columbaria in future, subject to demand and feasibility. At present, there were a total of about 1 271 keeping spaces for abortuses in government and non-governmental private cemeteries that provided facilities for keeping abortuses and scattering their ashes, and applications had been received in respect of 195 of such spaces. The Government would keep the situation in view to assess the need to provide more such facilities.

Number of niches to be provided in the columbaria

7. Ms CHAN Hoi-yan and Mr Tony TSE expressed support for the proposed project, which in their view would help to ameliorate the tight supply situation of public niches. The proposed Shek Mun columbarium would be three storeys high and provide 40 000 niches. They enquired whether the Administration had plans to expand the columbarium in future in order to provide more niches.

8. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that the Administration had conducted a traffic impact assessment study for the proposed Shek Mun columbarium project. After considering the findings of the assessment, it proposed providing 40 000 niches, having regard to the traffic volume in the peak grave sweeping periods during Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. Nevertheless, the Administration would keep an open mind and maintain liaison with the Sha Tin District Council ("STDC") on whether to expand the Shek Mun columbarium in-situ or on a nearby site or identify other places in Sha Tin for constructing new columbaria in future. The Administration would consult STDC if it proposed providing additional niches in the district, having taken into account technical factors and cost-effectiveness and obtained support from residents.

9. Noting from the Government's submission, i.e. [PWSC\(2019-20\)14](#), that the Administration planned to implement the Sandy Ridge Cemetery columbarium project in two phases, providing around 54 000 niches in Phase 1 first, and then around 146 000 niches in the remaining Phase 2, Mr Tony TSE and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired why the Administration had to construct the Sandy Ridge Cemetery columbarium in phases and when it would implement Phase 2 of the project.

10. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that having taken into account the projected traffic volume at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery columbarium during the peak grave sweeping periods and discussed with the North District Council, the Government planned to make 18 000 niches in the Sandy Ridge Cemetery columbarium available for allocation each year. During the time, it would closely monitor the traffic volume in the vicinity of Sandy Ridge Cemetery during the peak grave sweeping periods. As regards the implementation of Phase 2 of the project, the Administration would draw up a concrete timetable in due course. She added that with the successive completion of the various transport infrastructural facilities in the vicinity of Sandy Ridge Cemetery, they were expected to accommodate the traffic generated by the two phases of the project providing a total of 200 000 niches.

11. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the latest progress made by the Private Columbaria Licensing Board ("PCLB") in processing applications for private columbarium licences.

12. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that PCLB had granted four private columbarium licences and given approval-in-principle to two licence applications. They involved a total of about 122 000 private niches that had been sold, accounting for roughly 25% of such niches across the territory, while there were around 14 000 unsold private niches. On the other hand, PCLB had refused 13 applications for private columbarium licences due to non-compliance with the requirements. Quite a number of such private columbaria were located in multi-storey buildings or high-density residential areas.

Traffic and crowd control measures during peak grave sweeping periods

13. Mr Gary FAN enquired whether the Administration would provide feeder services running to and from the Shek Mun columbarium during the peak grave sweeping periods.

14. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that given the proximity of the Shek Mun columbarium site to MTR Shek Mun Station, members of the public could walk from Shek Mun Station to the columbarium via the proposed pedestrian subway in 10 minutes or so.

15. Mr Holden CHOW was concerned that the Shek Mun columbarium would have only one vehicular ingress and egress point, which would be located at the end of On Hing Lane. Large traffic volume during the peak grave sweeping periods might cause traffic congestion there, which might, in turn, affect the operation of the Sha Tin Refuse Transfer Station nearby.

16. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that the Transport Department and the Police usually implemented special traffic arrangements at various columbaria during the peak grave sweeping periods. Such arrangements would also be adopted at the Shek Mun columbarium upon its commissioning. As per the usual arrangements, private cars and taxis should be banned from entering On Hing Lane. Therefore, the traffic during the peak grave sweeping periods would probably not cause too much impact on that section of On Hing Lane. She added that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") had discussed the operation of the Sha Tin Refuse Transfer Station with the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"). It was anticipated that the traffic arising from the columbarium and the refuse transfer station would not affect the operation of each other.

17. Ms Tanya CHAN enquired whether the proposed pedestrian subway connecting On Muk Street and the Shek Mun columbarium would be wide enough to cope with the pedestrian flow to and from the columbarium during the peak grave sweeping periods.

18. Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land), Civil Engineering and Development Department ("DH(CEO)(P&L)/CEDD") advised that the width of the proposed pedestrian subway would be eight metres, and holding areas of 420 to 500 square metres would be provided at both ends of the subway. This would be sufficient to cope with the pedestrian flow to and from the columbarium during the peak grave sweeping periods.

Promoting green burials

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19. Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Gary FAN enquired how the Administration would promote green burials. Besides, Ms CHAN and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested the Administration to provide information on Gardens of Remembrance ("GoRs") where members of the public could scatter the ashes of the deceased, including the number of existing GoRs, photos and numbers of the commemorative plaques and other worshipping facilities (e.g. electronic kiosks which enabled members of the public to adopt digital worshipping) provided in each GoR, and the utilization of such facilities.

20. DD(EH)/FEHD advised that at present, FEHD provided GoRs in 12 government columbaria, where a total of around 38 900 commemorative plaques were mounted. Around 12 500 unused quotas were currently available for application by members of the public. To further promote green burials, FEHD would install two and three electronic kiosks for digital worshipping at GoRs in the proposed columbaria in Shek Mun and Sandy Ridge respectively. She added that green burials were performed for about 16.4% of those who died between January and September 2019. The Government would continue to publicize the Green Burial Central Register, and encourage members of the public to register their wish for green burial.

Project cost estimate

21. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether the Administration had invited tenders for the proposed works, and whether the project cost estimate set out in the paper had taken into account the prices quoted in the tenders received with a view to, in his view, better aligning the project cost estimate with the actual price level.

22. DArchS advised that the Government had not invited tenders for the proposed works. She pointed out that there were not many similar public works projects for cost reference. Moreover, the Government might have to specify special requests in the tender document in the light of Members' views. Therefore, it was a safer arrangement for the Government to invite tenders after obtaining LegCo's funding approval for the proposed works.

23. Pointing out that the cost of the subway construction and geotechnical works for the proposed pedestrian subway was estimated to be over \$140 million, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the reasons for the high cost.

24. DH(CEO)(P&L)/CEDD advised that the Government had calculated the project cost estimate of the proposed pedestrian subway with reference to the costs of its two similar pedestrian subway projects recently carried out in Kai Tak. The project costs of the two pedestrian subways were around \$300 000 per square metre, which was comparable to the project cost estimate of the proposed pedestrian subway.

Voting on PWSC(2019-20)14

25. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2019-20\)14](#) to vote.

26. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman asked members whether the item needed to be voted on separately at the relevant meeting of the Finance Committee ("FC"). Mr Gary FAN requested that the item, i.e. [PWSC\(2019-20\)14](#), be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

Head 704 — Drainage

PWSC(2019-20)15	408DS	Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant
	272DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2
	273DS	Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3
	125DS	Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 2

27. The Chairman advised that the proposal, i.e. [PWSC\(2019-20\)15](#), sought to upgrade part of 408DS, part of 272DS, part of 273DS and part of 125DS to Category A at estimated costs of \$6,861.4 million, \$515.9 million, \$668.2 million and \$308.1 million in MOD prices respectively for the construction of the stage 1 upgrading of the Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant, provision of village sewerage in part of Port Shelter, and provision of village sewerage in part of Tolo Harbour. The Government consulted the

Panel on Environmental Affairs regarding 408DS on 27 May 2019, 272DS and 273DS on 25 March 2019, and 125DS on 29 April 2019 respectively. Panel members had no objection to the submission of the funding proposals for these works to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

408DS — Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant

Project cost estimate

Admin

28. Regarding the estimated capital cost of 408DS set out in Enclosure 1 to the Government's submission (i.e. [PWSC\(2019-20\)15](#)), Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested the Administration to provide supplementary information, setting out separately the estimated cost breakdown for the demolition and reconstruction of the relevant facilities under paragraphs 8(a), 8(b) and 8(c); explaining why the capital cost of the proposed works stood as high as \$6,861.4 million, and providing the cost information of the Government's other similar construction works of sewage treatment facilities for members' reference.

29. Mr Holden CHOW noted that the proposed works would increase the sewage treatment capacity of Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works ("YLSTW") from 70 000 to 100 000 cubic metres per day. In addition, the Administration also planned to further increase the treatment capacity of YLSTW to 150 000 cubic metres per day in future. He enquired whether the capital cost of the proposed works (i.e. \$6,861.4 million) had covered the cost of the related works aimed at further increasing the sewage treatment capacity of YLSTW to 150 000 cubic metres per day in future.

30. Director of Drainage Services ("DDS") said that the cost estimate of the proposed works (i.e. \$6,861.4 million) covered only the cost of increasing the sewage treatment capacity of YLSTW from 70 000 to 100 000 cubic metres per day. Apart from increasing the treatment capacity, the proposed works also served to upgrade the sewage treatment level of YLSTW from secondary to tertiary effluent polishing standard. In order to reduce noise and odour nuisances to nearby residents, some of the facilities would be built underground. Moreover, the reconstruction works of YLSTW within the same footprint had to be carried out in stages to ensure the normal operation of YLSTW in the course of construction. Owing to these additional works requirements and constraints, the cost estimate of the proposed works was on the high side, yet reasonable.

31. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether the Administration had invited tenders for the proposed works, and whether the current project cost

estimate had taken into account the prices quoted in the tenders received, so that it would better align with the actual price level. Moreover, he asked why an additional annual recurrent expenditure of \$200 million would arise from the proposed project.

32. DDS replied that the Government had not invited tenders for the proposed works for the time being, but the current project cost estimate was still applicable. As for the additional recurrent expenditure, it mainly involved the costs of electricity of sewage treatment works, regular checks and maintenance of the plant facilities, and expenses on chemicals used for disinfection treatment of sewage.

Project scope

33. Pointing out that the proposed works would include the construction of viewing and landscaped decks at YLSTW, Mr Gary FAN enquired whether such facilities would be open for public use. Moreover, he suggested that the Administration should provide public education facilities at the sewage treatment works and allow the public to visit the plant to give the public an understanding of the process of effluent polishing.

34. DDS said that the proposed works would include the construction of viewing and landscaped decks to the east of the plant facilities (i.e. the location numbered 8 as shown in Annex 1 to Enclosure 1 to the paper), and a riverside walkway along Shan Pui River which allowed public access to the platforms for activities such as bird watching, and to the education facilities in the plant for an understanding of its operation. Owing to safety concerns, the plant facilities were usually closed to public access. However, on the premise of not affecting the operation, the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") would consider arranging public visits to the plant facilities by way of guided tours.

35. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung supported the expeditious reconstruction of YLSTW by the Administration to address the noise and odour nuisances that had beset the nearby villagers for many years. Pointing out that in future, the new development areas ("NDAs") in Yuen Long South and Hung Shui Kiu would give rise to a large amount of additional population in Yuen Long, he enquired if the sewage treatment capacity of YLSTW, after reconstruction, could cope with the demand for sewage treatment given rise by the additional population.

36. DDS said that the Government had plans to build other sewage treatment facilities to cope with the increased demand for sewage treatment

capacity arising from Yuen Long South and Hung Shui Kiu NDAs. The existing YLSTW served the areas of Yuen Long Town Centre, Yuen Long Industrial Estate and Kam Tin. Upon completion of the proposed stage 1 reconstruction works, the sewage treatment capacity of YLSTW would increase from 70 000 to 100 000 cubic metres per day, which was expected to meet the service demand of its catchment up to around 2030. The Government estimated that as the population of the areas concerned would increase to about 450 000 in 2041, the volume of sewage generation from the YLSTW catchment would increase to 150 000 cubic metres per day. The Government would decide when to take forward stage 2 reconstruction works of YLSTW to further increase its sewage treatment capacity to 150 000 cubic metres per day with regard to the actual population growth in the areas concerned.

37. Mr AU Nok-hin noted that the proposed reconstruction project of YLSTW would include the installation of "combined heat and power units" in the plant for generating renewable energy. He welcomed the arrangement, and enquired about the amount of electricity it could generate for the plant.

38. DDS replied that the biogas derived from digestion of sludge and organic waste (e.g. food waste) would be used as fuel for power generation by the "combined heat and power units" in the sewage treatment works. Together with the photovoltaic panels to be installed in the plant, the total amount of renewable energy provided would account for about 10% of the electricity consumption of the plant. He added that DSD had the experience in maintaining and repairing photovoltaic panels as it had installed such panels at a number of sewage treatment works.

Water quality of treated effluent

39. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung enquired how the water quality of the treated effluent would be improved and about the impact on the water quality of Shan Pui River and Deep Bay after the sewage treatment level of YLSTW was upgraded from secondary to tertiary standard.

40. DDS replied that should the sewage treatment capacity of YLSTW remain at the current design level of 70 000 cubic metres per day, the water quality of its effluent would have no impact on the water quality of Shan Pui River and Deep Bay further downstream even if its treatment level remained at secondary standard. However, as the Government planned to increase its treatment capacity to 150 000 cubic metres per day in stages, the sewage treatment level of YLSTW had to be upgraded from secondary to tertiary standard to ensure that the increased amount of effluent discharge would not

affect the water quality of Shan Pui River and Deep Bay, as revealed by an environmental impact assessment.

41. Mr WU Chi-wai opined that the Administration should consider reusing the treated effluent of YLSTW for street washing or watering by the relevant departments.

42. DDS said that YLSTW would reuse its treated effluent for such purposes as washing water tanks and diluting chemical disinfectants. However, for wide-scale reuse of the effluent for street washing, watering or flushing, additional plants had to be built for further disinfection of the effluent despite it having been tertiary treated, and connecting pipes would also need to be built. In this connection, the Water Supplies Department would explore if there was a need for wide-scale reuse of the treated effluent of YLSTW under its policies for water resources management.

Construction of anaerobic co-digestion facilities for food waste/sludge

43. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Gary FAN noted that the proposed reconstruction works of YLSTW would reserve space for the construction of more digestors and storage tanks for anaerobic co-digestion of food waste/sludge. They enquired about when the relevant arrangement would be implemented and whether the additional cost incurred from the construction of the digestors and storage tanks was included in the cost estimate of the proposed project.

44. DDS said that DSD was implementing the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-Digestion Pilot Trial at Tai Po sewage treatment works with an aggregate design treatment capacity of 50 tonnes of food waste per day, under which the biogas generated was used for power generation. If the trial results were satisfactory, the treatment capacity would be increased and the pilot trial would be expanded to other sewage treatment facilities. In this connection, DSD planned to reserve about 0.6 hectares of land at the proposed YLSTW for future construction of digestors and storage tanks with a food waste treatment capacity of about 200 tonnes per day. The project of constructing these additional facilities would be implemented separately and LegCo's funding approval would be sought separately in future. He added that the Administration had to complete the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-Digestion Pilot Trial and review its effectiveness before it could confirm the timetable of constructing these additional food waste treatment facilities.

45. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether the existing facilities at DSD's sewage treatment facilities were capable of treating sewage containing food waste in the form of suspended solids. DDS said that the sewage treatment facilities of DSD were generally equipped with screens with different sizes of spacing (about 2 millimetres minimum) to screen out suspended solid waste in the sewage.

Admin

46. Mr WU Chi-wai pointed out that officials of the Environment Bureau had said at the meetings of other LegCo committees that some food waste treatment technologies might have implications on the sewerage system. In this connection, he requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on whether EPD and DSD had jointly studied food waste treatment technologies that could be applied in NDAs; if so, the specific contents and findings of the study.

47. Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Water Policy) (Acting) ("AD(WP)/EPD(Atg)") said that food debris discharged into the sewers would increase the concentration of suspended solids in the sewage and might lead to blockages, etc. He pointed out that EPD and DSD had maintained communication to jointly study different food waste treatment technologies and the corresponding design requirements of the sewerage system.

Village sewerage system in Yuen Long District

48. Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted from the Administration's supplementary information paper for the Panel on Environmental Affairs (i.e. [LC Paper No. CB\(1\)1175/18-19\(02\)](#)) that the construction of trunk sewers for a number of villages in Yuen Long District (including villages in San Tin and Pat Heung) could not be proceeded with as the local communities had not reached consensus on the proposed works. They enquired about the practical difficulties the Administration had encountered when dealing with such cases.

49. AD(WP)/EPD(Atg) replied that over the years, EPD and DSD had been discussing with villagers of San Tin and Pat Heung about the feasibility of providing trunk sewers in the areas. However, villagers had opposed the works as there were widespread concerns among them over the nuisances caused by the pipe laying works and the need of acquiring private land. Moreover, some villagers were concerned about the additional financial burdens arising from the need to pay sewage charges to the Government after pipes had been laid, and the cost out of their own pockets for constructing new connecting sewers to the Government's trunk sewers.

272DS — Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2, and 273DS — Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3

Admin

50. Noting that the Administration planned to construct about 13.3 kilometres of gravity sewers under 273DS at an estimated cost close to \$300 million, Ms Tanya CHAN sought the reasons for the relatively high estimated cost of this works item. Moreover, she requested the Administration to provide a plan indicating the alignment of the gravity sewers (in electronic format optionally).

51. DDS explained that as the construction of the about 13.3 kilometres of gravity sewers covered a number of villages in which the space between the houses was generally rather narrow, making it difficult for workers to use heavy machineries in the course of construction, most works procedures had to be carried out manually. In addition, works implementation was made more difficult by the need to avoid obstructing vehicular accesses in the villages during construction. Under these works constraints, the gravity sewers took more time to build and the construction cost was thus increased.

52. Ms Tanya CHAN enquired why sewage pumping stations ("SPSs") would need to be constructed in some areas but not others under the proposed sewerage projects in Port Shelter. DDS replied that some villages that sat lower than the existing trunk sewers needed to be provided with SPSs to pump the village sewage to the trunk sewers via rising mains.

[At 10:15 am, the Chairman allowed Dr KWOK Ka-ki, who was not a member of the Subcommittee and was waiting for his turn to speak, to raise questions. When speaking, Dr KWOK pointed out that a quorum was not present. At the request of Mr AU Nok-hin, the Chairman directed that the quorum bell be rung to summon members. A quorum was present at 10:18 am and the meeting was resumed.]

Voting on PWSC(2019-20)15

53. At 10:18 am, the Chairman advised that there were no members waiting for their turns to raise further questions on the item. The Chairman thus put [PWSC\(2019-20\)15](#) to vote.

54. During the voting procedure, Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that he had not yet raised questions on the item. The Chairman said that before he put the item to vote, it was shown on the computer system that no Members were waiting for their turns to raise questions. Neither was he aware that

Dr KWOK wished to speak again. As the voting procedure had commenced, he must first complete it. The Chairman also said that subject to the consent of public officers, he could allow Dr KWOK to raise a round of questions after the voting.

55. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and some other members (including Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Jeremy TAM) were dissatisfied that the Chairman did not allow Dr KWOK to raise questions.

56. The Chairman reiterated that since the voting procedure had commenced, he must first complete it. The item was voted on and endorsed.

[At 10:23 am, when the Chairman was dealing with procedural matters, Mr Jeremy TAM approached the Chairman's podium to express his discontent with the Chairman's refusal to suspend the voting procedure. The Chairman considered that Mr Jeremy TAM's conduct was grossly disorderly and ordered Mr TAM to leave the conference room. Some other members (Mr WU Chi-wai, Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr Gary FAN) also approached the Chairman's podium.]

57. As the meeting could not be continued, the Chairman declared that the meeting ended. The meeting ended at 10:23 am.