

Country and Marine Parks Board
Confirmed Minutes of the 81st Meeting

Date	: 29 June 2023 (Thursday)	File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time	: 2:30 p.m.	
Venue	: Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) Headquarters	

PRESENT

Chairman

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

Members attending in person

Dr. CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Dr. LAW Man-yee, Caroline

Dr. LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr. LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Mr. SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
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Mr. LAI Kin-ming, Mickey	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
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Ms. LO Lai-fong, Jackie	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) ³ (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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Mr. WU Chia-chun, Desmond	Principal Assistant Secretary for Environment & Ecology (Nature Conservation)
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Members Attended via Zoom Video Conferencing

Ms. CHAN Kwai-fun, Brenda

Mr. CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Mr. LAW Wing-fai, Teddy

Mr. LEUNG Kin-wai, Ian

Mr. LO Pui-lam

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Mr. WONG Lap-kei, Alex

Ms. YIP Yan-yan

Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2) (Lands Administration Office/Headquarters)
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Mr. LAI Chi-tung, JP	Assistant Director of Marine/Port Control
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Mr. MA Hon-wing, Wilson	Assistant Director/Development, Water Supplies Department
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Ms. CHUI Wai-yee, Brenda	Chief Executive Officer (2)1, Home Affairs Department
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Ms. CHAN Cheuk-ling, Kathy	Senior Town Planner/New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning Department
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Secretary

Ms. CHEUNG Man-lee, Lily	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1 (Acting), AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCE**AFCD**

Mr. LAI Chuen-chi, Patrick	Assistant Director (Fisheries & Marine Conservation)
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Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie	Assistant Director (Country Parks)
Ms. CHAN Yu-nam	Senior Geopark Officer
Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Dr. TAM Tze-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Recreation Development)
Mr. YEUNG Fai-fai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2) (Acting)
Mr. NG Sin-pan, Alvin	Geopark Officer (Education)
Ms. TAM Lam, Lindy	Country Parks Officer (Recreation Development)2

For Agenda III only - Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

Mr. LUNG Chi-fai, Felix	Senior Project Manager 124
Ms. LAM Winnie	Project Manager 150

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Dr. CHEUNG Ting-on, Lewis

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen, Desmond

Mr. YAU Yik-chung, Henry

Mr. YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Ms. YU Pik-fan, Vriko

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

109/23 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Ms. LO Lai-fong, Jackie, Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3 (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department who attended for the first time, and Mr. LAI Chuen-chi, Patrick attending for the

first time in the capacity of Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Fisheries and Marine Conservation).

110/23 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice, audio recording would be made during the meeting to facilitate the taking of minutes. It would be destroyed after the confirmation of the minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 80th Meeting held on 2 February 2023

111/23 The minutes of the 80th meeting held on 2 February 2023 were confirmed without amendment.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Preparation for the Revalidation of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) (Para. 105/22 to 116/22)

112/23 Ms. CHAN Yu-nam reported that, as informed by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, the revalidation of HKUGGp would be postponed to 2025. Mr. NG Sin-pan, Alvin reported, with a PowerPoint presentation, on the Sai Kung Hoi Arts Festival 2022, organised by the Tourism Commission and supported by the HKUGGp. It consisted of artwork installations and various activities on Yim Tin Tsai and Sharp Island and had been extended to Kau Sai Village and High Island from 2023 onwards. A visitor survey was conducted on Sharp Island and the result was positive.

113/23 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the displaying period of the artworks, Mr. NG Sin-pan, Alvin said that they would be exhibited as long as feasible.

114/23 The Chairman appealed to members to join the Geopark activities.

(b) Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) (Para. 5/23)

115/23 Mr. YEUNG Fai-fai reported that during the 60-day public inspection period, four objections against the draft map of the proposed RNCP had been received. In accordance with section 11(6) of the Country Park Ordinance, a special meeting was arranged on 28 March 2023 to hear the objections and the representations from the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority). After thorough deliberations, the Board rejected all the objections in whole. In accordance with section 12 of the Ordinance, the Authority would submit the draft map with a schedule of objections and representations to the Chief Executive in Council for approval.

(c) Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) (Para. 7/23 to 30/23)

116/23 Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise reported that the draft map was gazetted on 3 March 2023, followed by a 60-day public inspection period. No objection had been received against the draft map of the proposed NLMP during the public inspection period. In accordance with section 13 of the Marine Parks Ordinance, the Authority would submit the draft map to the Chief Executive in Council for approval.

**III. Results of the Design Competition for the Reconstruction of the Public Toilet and Refreshment Kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Barbecue Site
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2023)**

(Representatives of the ArchSD joined the meeting at this juncture.)

117/23 The Chairman welcomed representatives of the ArchSD to the meeting.

118/23 With a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. TAM Lam, Lindy introduced the background of the competition. Mr. LUNG Chi-fai, Felix explained the assessment criteria, the winning entry and the implementation plan.

119/23 A member enquired if there were barrier-free facilities for visually-impaired users.

120/23 A member opined that the design of the winning entry was too modern and suggested adopting a subtle design to blend in with nature. He also suggested constructing single-storey instead of multi-storey buildings so as to lower the cost.

121/23 Another member queried whether it was mandatory to include the waste handling and material recovery storage area in the design and if the odour issue had been considered. She also suggested using wall tiles and plants to decorate the interior and exterior walls instead of using wall paint to naturalise the buildings.

122/23 Mr. LUNG Chi-fai, Felix replied that the winning design consisted of four separate single-storey buildings under one roof. The design of the buildings would comply with barrier-free access requirements, including providing braille, tactile signs and maps, etc. As for the cost, the ArchSD would co-ordinate with the consultant and relevant government departments to ensure the project was cost-effective. Regarding the waste handling and material recovery storage area, it was a required facility and a mandatory design item for the competition. The winning design had significantly reduced the size of this area, hence improving odour control. Mr. LUNG thanked the member for the suggestion to use wall tiles and said the suitability would be discussed with the consultant and maintenance agent, taking into account other considerations such as overall building design, maintenance and cost, etc.

123/23 A member was concerned that the ramp to the rooftop might be too steep for manual wheelchair users.

124/23 A member queried if the ramp to the rooftop was wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs passing in opposite directions at the same time.

125/23 A member remarked that the site was a popular spot and was concerned about the provision of toilet services during the construction period. He also asked if the dismantled building materials could be reused.

126/23 The Chairman advised against using reflective building materials. He asked the ArchSD to elaborate on the smart technology to be adopted.

127/23 Mr. LUNG Chi-fai, Felix explained that the gradient and width of the ramps would comply with barrier-free access requirements. It would be designed to allow two manual wheelchair users to pass in opposite directions at the same time. In addition, the management may consider at a later stage other enhancement measurements, such as recommending wheelchair users to use one ramp for upward access and the other ramp for downward access. During the construction period, the ArchSD would co-ordinate with the AFCD and the consultant to minimise user disruptions and provide temporary toilets as necessary. Concerning smart technology, to facilitate the management of toilet facilities, Internet of Things (IoT) solutions would be incorporated into the toilet management plan. These include monitoring and controlling toilet utilisation, consumable usage and indoor air quality, etc. Photovoltaic panels would also be installed to generate electricity for the facilities. Other appropriate smart technologies would be further explored with the AFCD.

128/23 The Chairman reminded the ArchSD to adopt a smart design to enhance toilet ventilation and improve floor cleanliness.

(Representatives of the ArchSD left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.)

IV. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC) (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/6/2023)

129/23 As Professor HE Shenjing, the Chairperson of the CPC was absent, Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2023, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 14 April 2023, on her behalf.

130/23 A member queried if the operation of the Shek O Quarry deteriorated the ecological condition of the excised area in the Shek O Country Park (SOCP) and whether forgoing the excised area would set a precedent case for similar development projects in the country parks. Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie replied that the recommendation to re-incorporate the excised area into the SOCP was made by the Board some 30 years ago. After assessing the conservation value, landscape and aesthetic values and recreation potential of the excised area, as well as the changes in the socio-environment, it was concluded that the excised area and the surrounding engineered slopes were not suitable to be re-incorporated into the country park. In fact, the ecological value of the excised area before the operation of the Shek O Quarry was not high. She also confirmed that there was no similar projects involving the excision of land from the country parks.

131/23 The Chairman asked the AFCD to brief members on the progress of enhancing toilet facilities in country parks. Dr. TAM Tze-wai reported that the enhancement would be conducted in three phases. In the first phase, the reconstruction of the toilets at Bride's Pool Road and the construction of a new toilet at Pak Kung Au would commence in the second half of 2023 and complete in late 2024. The reconstruction of the Tai Tam Tuk toilets would commence in late 2023 and complete in Q2 2025. For phase two, the toilet facility in Aberdeen P.H.A.B. Site would undergo reconstruction as reported in Agenda III. Construction of a new toilet facility at Long Ke Wan Campsite would commence in early 2024 and complete in Q1 2025. Construction of a new toilet facility at Twisk Campsite would begin in Q4 2024 and complete in Q4 2025. For phase three, the AFCD had been discussing with the ArchSD about the technical feasibility of building new toilets at Tung Lung Chau Campsite and Quarry Bay Morning Walker Garden, as well as reconstructing existing toilets at Lau Shui Heung, Hok Tau Campsite and Tai Tong Barbecue Area Site No. 6.

132/23 The Chairman stressed the importance of providing good toilet facilities in country parks. He acknowledged the difficulty of supplying water in remote areas and asked the AFCD to liaise with the Water Supplies Department. He also raised concerns about providing toilet facilities on Shatin Pass and Cape D'Aguilar. While the two sites were not within the country parks, he noticed they were popular trails with a high demand for toilets. He advised the AFCD to discuss with relevant departments to improve public toilets there.

133/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie acknowledged that there was a genuine need for improving public toilets in country parks. However, the lack of supporting infrastructure, such as water supply and sewerage treatment, posed a challenge to their provision in some remote locations. Although the existing toilets had adopted alternative water supply and sewage disposal methods, such as water wagons, septic tanks and membrane treatment, these methods had their own constraints and could not be applied to all remote locations. The AFCD would continue to explore possible solutions and new technologies with relevant departments to enhance toilet services in country parks. The progress would be reported to members at the appropriate juncture.

V. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2023)

134/23 Professor Qiu Jian-wen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/7/2023, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 5 May 2023. Members noted the report.

**VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/8/2023)**

135/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie reported on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report from 1 January to 30 April 2023 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/8/2022). Members noted the report.

136/23 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the effectiveness of using a robotic surveillance system in hill fire detection, Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie said the system was set up at Tai Lam Country Park and the performance was satisfactory. The AFCD was planning for wider application of the system to all fire lookouts in country parks in three years.

137/23 The Chairman also asked about the visitor counts in Cape D'Aguilar, as his perception was that more visitors had visited Cape D'Aguilar recently. Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise replied that staff of the AFCD patrolled the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve and nearby areas daily to record the visitor numbers. Following the subsiding of the COVID-19 pandemic, the site recorded fewer visitors than in previous years, although the figure was still relatively high. The AFCD would continue to monitor the situation.

138/23 A member enquired about the current condition of the sawdust toilet in Tai Lam Country Park. Another member asked about the result of its performance evaluation.

139/23 Mr. YEUNG Fai-fai answered that the sawdust toilet was temporarily closed for maintenance and would be reopened afterwards. Public response towards the sawdust toilet was generally positive but many people indicated that they would like to have water for washing hands. The pilot run was completed and the AFCD would explore other suitable locations in country parks for its installation.

140/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie supplemented that the pilot run aimed to test the public's acceptance of the sawdust toilet and assess the technical feasibility of providing toilet facilities in remote areas lacking electricity and water. The AFCD would review the experience from the pilot run and plan for further application in other suitable locations.

141/23 A member would like to know the strategy and content of the school visit programmes of country parks and marine parks respectively. Another member asked if these were outreach programmes organised by the AFCD.

142/23 Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie replied that the country park school visit programme aimed to convey nature conservation messages to students. Schools could book school visits with the AFCD. It was observed that kindergartens and primary schools had a higher demand for the programme than secondary schools. The AFCD had also developed a separate learning kit to cater for the learning needs of secondary school students.

143/23 Ms. LI Wai-hung, Louise supplemented that the school educational seminars concerning marine parks aimed to convey marine conservation messages to mainly secondary school students. There were learning kits targeting primary school and kindergarten students.

VII. Any Other Business

(a) Others

144/23 A member asked about the illegal hunting of freshwater turtles in country parks and the illegal felling of *Entada phaseoloides* on Mau Ping Ancient Trail. On tackling the issue of illegal hunting of freshwater turtles, Dr. YIP Yin, Jackie said the AFCD had been working with local turtle experts on intelligence exchange and conducting joint operations with relevant departments. As for the Mau Ping case, the felled plant was not stolen but was left on the spot. Initial investigation revealed this might be an isolated case, and there was no similar case in other country parks. The AFCD would continue the investigation and step up patrols in country parks.

(b) Vote of Thanks

145/23 This was the last regular meeting of the current term (1 September 2021 –31 August 2023). Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai, JP thanked the Chairman and members for their enthusiastic support of the work of the Board. The Chairman also expressed gratitude to members for their contributions.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

146/23 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 24 October 2023 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

(Post meeting note: The next meeting would be held on 10 November 2023 (Friday) at 2:30 p.m.)

147/23 The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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