

**Country and Marine Parks Board
Confirmed Minutes of the 85th Meeting**

Date : 30 September 2024 (Monday)

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 Apple CHUI Pui-yi

Professor LI Xin

Mr LO Pui-lam

Professor QIU Jianwen

Mr SHUM Si-ki

Mr Alex WONG Lap-kei

Mr Henry YAU Yik-chung

Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming, JP

Director, AFCD

Mr Patrick LAI Chuen-chi

Deputy Director

Mr Desmond WU Chia-chun

Principal Assistant Secretary (Nature
Conservation), Environment and Ecology
Bureau

Mr Mike YAU Sai-yuen

Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and
Cultural Services Department

Members Attending via Zoom Video Conferencing

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung, BBS, MH

Miss Natalie CHUNG Sum-yue

Dr Caroline LAW Man-yee

Mr Ian LEUNG Kin-wai

Dr Angie NG Ying-sim
Mr Randy YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Ms Vriko YU Pik-fan

Ms Kathy CHAN Cheuk-ling	Senior Town Planner/New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning Department
Miss Carmen CHAN Ka-man	Assistant Director/Port Control, Marine Department
Ms Jenny CHAN Wai-man, JP Mr CHIU Man-fat	Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department Senior Engineer/Planning Policy 1, Water Supplies Department
Miss Sapphire LO Pui-yiu	Assistant Director (Specialist 2) (Lands Administration Office/Headquarters), Lands Department

Secretary

Ms Lily CHEUNG Man-lee	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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In Attendance

AFCD

Dr Jackie YIP Yin	Assistant Director (Country Parks)
Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa	Assistant Director (Fisheries and Marine Conservation)
Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services)1
Ms Louise LI Wai-hung	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr William CHOW Siu-hung	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management)2
Mr Charlie SHUE Pok-Hin	Country Parks Officer (North)

Absent with Apologies

Professor Desmond HUI Cheuk-kuen
Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

87/24 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the following six officials attending the meeting for the first time:

Dr Jim CHU Chun-wa	Assistant Director (Fisheries and Marine Conservation), AFCD
Miss Carmen CHAN Ka-man	Assistant Director/Port Control, Marine Department
Ms Jenny CHAN Wai-man, JP	Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services)1
Mr CHIU Man-fat	Senior Engineer/Planning Policy 1, Water Supplies Department
Mr Mike YAU Sai-yuen	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

88/24 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 84th Meeting held on 7 May 2024

89/24 The minutes of the 84th meeting held on 7 May 2024 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Progress of Designation of North Lantau Marine Park

90/24 Ms Louise LI Wai-hung reported that the Government had gazetted the designation order on 14 June 2024 and introduced it into the Legislative Council (LegCo) for negative vetting. Subject to the approval of the LegCo, North Lantau Marine Park would be

designated on 1 November and become the eighth and the largest marine park in Hong Kong. The relevant subcommittee of the LegCo had held a meeting on 9 July to scrutinise the designation order, and no amendment had been proposed at the meeting. The AFCD was actively making preparation work for the management and publicity of the new marine park with a view to further protecting marine resources and the environment.

III. Management Work and Visitor Services Arranged for the Robin's Nest Country Park (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/9/2024)

91/24 With a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Charlie SHUE Pok-hin briefly introduced the AFCD's management work arranged for Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) since its designation on 1 March 2024. Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai introduced the visitor services provided in RNCP and the related publicity and education work in detail.

92/24 A Member enquired whether visitors travelling to Lin Ma Hang by minibus had to get off before reaching the Frontier Closed Area (FCA).

93/24 Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai said that visitors had to get off before reaching the FCA because a closed area permit was required for entry into the FCA. After getting off, visitors could take a 20-minute walk along the connecting path to Lin Ma Hang Village and Lin Ma Hang Country Trail.

[Post-meeting Note: With effect from 24 January 2025, the Government had opened a specified section of road within the FCA near Lin Ma Hang Village (between Wang Lek and the entrance of Lin Ma Hang Village). The requirement to apply for a closed area permit was exempted for any person travelling by green minibus passing through that section of road within the FCA. Visitors could travel directly between Lin Ma Hang Village and RNCP by green minibus through the relevant section of road within the FCA. The above exemption was only applicable to persons travelling by green minibus through the section of road within the FCA and did not apply to members of the public taking private vehicles, taxis or other vehicles or using other means of travel such as walking or cycling, without a valid closed area permit.]

94/24 A Member enquired whether the slope stabilisation works within country parks were undertaken by the AFCD or the Civil Engineering and Development Department

(CEDD), and about the slope stabilisation projects concerned. He also enquired whether the AFCD had maintained communication with the villagers of Lin Ma Hang Village.

95/24 Dr Jackie YIP Yin responded that the CEDD was co-ordinating all works related to slope safety throughout the territory (including man-made slopes and natural slopes). At present, stabilisation works had been carried out for natural slopes adjacent to human activities or buildings in country parks. Quite a number of hiking trails in country parks were adjacent to natural slopes, where small-scale collapse might occur after heavy rain. Hiking trails were currently repaired by the staff of the AFCD. In case of a large-scale collapse, the AFCD would seek professional advice from the CEDD before taking response measures as appropriate. Regarding communication with the villagers, the AFCD had been closely liaising with the villagers during the preparation for the designation of RNCP, fostering a good relationship. The AFCD would continue to maintain communication with the locals in the nearby villages with a view to collaborating with them in providing tourism supporting resources through local resources.

96/24 A Member enquired whether the AFCD had specified in its publicity campaign the difficulty levels of the two hiking trails in RNCP and the types of visitors for which the trails were suitable.

97/24 Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai said that every hiking trail would be graded by the number of stars according to its difficulty level. Robin's Nest Country Trail and Lin Ma Hang Country Trail were challenging and graded four stars in difficulty, so visitors had to get well-prepared before setting off. At the establishment of RNCP in March 2024, the AFCD considered the imminent hot weather and did not start promoting the two hiking trails until the commencement of the hiking season. While the two hiking trails might be too challenging for family visitors, they could appreciate and learn about Robin's Nest through promotional videos and other channels.

98/24 In view of the high difficulty level of both hiking trails, a Member suggested that the AFCD should explain to the press and the media the difficulty levels of the trails and the types of visitors for which the trails were suitable. He also enquired whether the frequency of the minibus would be adjusted or there would be special traffic arrangements in hiking peak season.

99/24 Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai agreed that it was necessary to indicate through all promotion channels that the country trails at Robin's Nest were challenging and visitors must

be well-prepared before hiking. She pointed out that automatic people counters had been installed in RNCP to accurately monitor the visitor flow. The AFCD would request the minibus operator to increase the minibus frequency when necessary.

100/24 Mr Charlie SHUE Pok-hin supplemented that there was a flight of steps connecting Lin Ma Hang Village and MacIntosh Fort at the western entrance. The AFCD in collaboration with the CEDD would install benches near the steps to provide visitors with a midway resting area.

101/24 A Member enquired about the current condition of drainage in the lead mine.

102/24 Mr Charlie SHUE Pok-hin responded that at present, only Cave No. 6, or the “Main Gallery” of the lead mine allowed entry by visitors. The CEDD had carried out stabilisation works for the rocks and gaps in the “Main Gallery” and greatly mitigated the problem of dripping in the cave. The CEDD had also installed drains and a drainage composite layer on the ground of the “Main Gallery” to mitigate the problem of ponding in the cave during rainfall. The AFCD would continue to monitor the drainage condition in the lead mine.

103/24 A Member held the view that the “Discovering RNCP” Hiking Challenge would attract many visitors to Robin’s Nest, which might overload the hiking trails and the peak area. He enquired about the measures to be taken by the AFCD to cope with overcrowding.

104/24 Ms Aidia CHAN Sin-wai said that the Hiking Challenge lasted for four months and could help divert the visitor flow. In case of overcrowding, the interpreters deployed at the entrances of the two country trails would assist in diverting the visitors.

105/24 The Chairman suggested that the publicity materials should include information of the locations of the public toilets. The AFCD noted the suggestion.

IV. Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/10/2024)

106/24 Mr LO Pui-lam, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee (CPC), briefed Members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/10/2024, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 4 June 2024. Members noted the report.

**V. Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/11/2024)**

107/24 Professor QIU Jianwen, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed Members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/11/2024, which provided a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 5 July 2024. Members noted the report.

**VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2024)**

108/24 Dr Jackie YIP Yin presented the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2024 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2024).

109/24 The Chairman commented that the decline in the number of visitors might be attributed to the hotter summer in 2024 as compared with the preceding year. He suggested providing recreational facilities on the periphery of country parks for convenient use by the public and attracting people to visit the country parks in hot weather. Besides, he enquired about the progress of the construction of public toilets in country parks.

110/24 Dr Jackie YIP-yin agreed that the hot weather would affect the number of visitors of country parks. Regarding the construction of public toilets, among the 11 toilets to be newly built or reconstructed, the ones at Pak Kung Au and Tai Tam were currently under construction, while the construction works at Bride's Pool Road would commence in October 2024. It was expected that the construction works for the three toilets would be completed successively in 2025. For the remaining eight toilets, some of them were under design or at the pre-construction phase, while others were in the planning stage. She pointed out that the 11 toilets had to be constructed in phases given the different challenges encountered during planning, design, and engineering investigations at various locations. Some toilets in remote locations rely on streams as they did not have water supply. Most locations lacked sewerage facilities and required the deployment of advanced solutions. The construction works for the toilets at Long Ke Wan Campsite and Tung Lung Chau Campsite faced many constraints as there was no direct vehicular access. Some toilets were located next to reservoirs managed by the Water Supplies Department, and required detailed planning to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. She said that Members would be updated of the latest progress of the works in due course.

111/24 The Chairman acknowledged that building toilets in country parks would be a challenging task and understood that the works would be time-consuming. He asked whether there was any plan for a new phase of works upon completion of the 11 toilets.

112/24 Dr Jackie YIP Yin said that the construction costs of the 11 toilets were covered by the funding of \$500 million earmarked under the 2021-22 Budget. She understood the importance of providing decent toilet facilities to visitors. Subject to public feedback, the AFCD would draw on the experience gained from the first phase of works and seek resources for further implementation of the toilet enhancement works.

113/24 The Chairman pointed out that both Cape D'Aguilar and Sha Tin Pass were very popular among the public. However, the former location lacked public toilets, while dilapidated facilities were seen in the latter. Although neither location was under the management of the AFCD, it was hoped that the AFCD could reflect to relevant departments the need for the provision of appropriate toilet facilities.

114/24 Ms Louise LI Wai-hung responded that Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve covered an area of 20 hectares on the coastal waters at the tip of D'Aguilar Peninsula. At present, there were two portable toilets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) near the bus stop at the entrance of D'Aguilar Peninsula. The AFCD had provided the relevant information at suitable locations and reminded visitors to be well-prepared.

115/24 Dr Jackie YIP Yin said that the FEHD had planned to refurbish the toilet at Sha Tin Pass, and the AFCD would continue to liaise with the department.

VII. Any Other Business

116/24 Dr Jackie YIP Yin informed Members that the Annual Board Visit 2024 would be held in December, and details of the visit would be disseminated to Members by the Secretary after the meeting.

117/24 There was no other business to discuss.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

118/24 The Chairman informed Members that the Secretary would notify them of the date of the next meeting in due course.

119/24 The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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