



**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION  
BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday 14 July 2011

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer and Branch President  
Joyce Watson AM, Chair  
Mohammad Asghar AM  
William Powell AM  
Simon Thomas AM

Natalie Drury-Styles, Acting Branch Secretary  
Al Davies, Branch Secretariat

**CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS.**

The Chair welcomed the Presiding Officer to the meeting and explained to Members present that - whilst she is of course welcome to attend any of the Branch meetings - the Presiding Officer had accepted an invitation to attend today's meeting in her capacity as Branch President so that she could assist in determining which of the Members who applied to attend the CPA Canadian Seminar should be selected, given that two of the applications were from Branch Executive Committee Members.

The Chair also stated that Members should by now have received a comprehensive Briefing on the CPA from the Branch Secretariat which it was hoped would be of help in furthering their understanding in the work of our Branch and the wider Association.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies had been accepted from Simon Thomas AM due to his commitment with another committee.

Note: Simon Thomas was able to attend the latter part of the meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Attendees present concurred with the minutes of the previous meeting

**3. MATTER ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

None.

**4. REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES**

**Feedback and follow-up of recent events and conferences**

There were none to report since the last meeting.

**Recent visits to / by Commonwealth Countries**

- *Inward visit by delegation from Pakistan – 05.07.2011*

The Chair noted this visit which had been at the request of the CPA UK Branch which is working closely with Pakistan following its constitutional change which will see the country devolved into four Provincial Assemblies.

The Chair invited Mohammad Asghar AM, who had met the delegation, to offer additional feedback on the visit. He added that the visitors had shown a great interest in the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh model of devolution; and they were particularly interested in the Assembly's Regional List system of which they had been unaware. Mohammad Asghar AM noted how the delegation had also appreciated being able to communicate with him in their native language.

The Chair made the Branch aware that the CPA UK Branch had written to thank the National Assembly for Wales for hosting this fact finding visit which had been considered a success and had achieved its objectives. The Chair emphasised however that the CPA Wales Branch had not committed to any future exchanges with the Parliament or Assemblies of Pakistan and that it was for the Branch Executive Committee to determine its future programme whilst considering resources and strategic priorities.

## 5. FORWARD PLANNING

### Forthcoming Conferences/Meetings

- *CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)  
London, 24-27 July 2011*

*- Election of the next CPA Executive Committee Chair*

Biographical details and statements for the two candidates received had been distributed to Members of the ExCo.

Following a discussion of the merits of each candidate it was decided that the Branch would support Sir Alan Haselhurst MP and the Chair therefore given the mandate to vote for him on behalf of the CPA Wales Branch at the forthcoming General Assembly on 27 July as part of the London CPC.

- *9<sup>th</sup> CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar, Ottawa,  
16-22 October 2011*

*- Selection of CPA Wales Branch Member to attend.*

Although there had originally been three expressions of interest and business cases received from Members to attend this Seminar, one of the Members had since withdrawn her application. Mohammad Asghar AM announced at the meeting that he too wished to withdraw his application; leaving that of William Powell AM.

Members present agreed that even though there was only one application that it was important to assess William Powell AM's business case and to ensure openness and fairness in the process William Powell was kindly requested to leave the meeting room whilst Members considered his application.

The Branch President stated how impressed she had been upon reading William Powell AM's business case and that she was confident that he had addressed what was required from the business case guidelines including assurances of how he would represent and position the National Assembly for Wales, as well as reporting his findings from the seminar back into the work of the Assembly. The other Branch Members were also unanimous in the merits of William Powell's case and it was therefore agreed that he should be selected to represent the CPA Wales Branch at the seminar in Ottawa.

**Action Point:** Branch Secretariat to notify William Powell AM and the CPA Canada Branch.

**Forthcoming Events**

- *Visit by the Destiny Africa Childrens Choir (Uganda) – 01.11.2011*

The Chair notified Members of this special event, which the previous Branch had agreed to sponsor and support.

With the Branch's permission the Branch Acting Secretariat would arrange a meeting with the Urdd to examine the possibility of involving Welsh children in the event so that they could have the opportunity of learning more about their commonwealth counterparts from a very different part of the world and of their inspirational story.

The Presiding Officer also suggested the possibility of whether it might be possible to have the "Only Boys Allowed" choir to perform at the event.

**Action Point:** Branch Secretariat through events team to look into the feasibility of this and to arrange meeting with the Urdd.

**Forthcoming Visits – Scheduled and Proposed**

- *Informal visits by Members of CPA Victoria and Queensland (Australia) Branches during summer recess.*

Requests had been received for private tours of the Senedd for visiting members of these Australian Branches and these had been arranged.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

Date in early October tbc

**7. NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Short verbal report on CPA Governance Issues by Branch Secretariat.

The Branch Secretariat gave a brief overview, for the benefit of new Members, of the issues surrounding CPA Governance over recent years, which the CPA Wales Branch had played a prominent role in highlighting and trying to positively influence both as a Branch and through the backing of the BIM Region.

Branch Secretariat  
August 2011