



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday 24 April 2012

MINUTES

Present:

Joyce Watson AM, Chair
Mohammad Asghar AM
Simon Thomas AM

Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received by William Powell AM

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – Paper CPA 01-12M (DOC 1)

Attendees present concurred with the minutes of the previous meeting

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

All Action Points had been completed and there were no matters arising.

4. REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

Feedback and follow-up of recent Meetings, Events and Conferences

- *Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, CPA Chair - 6 March 2012*

The CPA Chair's visit had allowed opportunities for meetings with the Branch Chair, the Presiding Officer and the Executive Committee during a Branch sponsored lunch to discuss areas of interest, including CPA governance and our Branch's work.

- *CPA UK and Regional Secretary
Andrew Tuggey DL – 19 March 2012*

A meeting with Andrew Tuggey, the UK and Regional Secretary had been arranged to discuss our Branch's interest in hosting an International Conference on People Trafficking and the logistics and practicalities which this would involve. The Chair reported that the Acting Branch Secretary was now taking this forward for further consideration.

- *Commonwealth Day*

1) *12.03.12 - Branch Representation at Westminster*

The Branch had been represented by Hannah Kirkby and Jacob Ellis in Westminster on Commonwealth Day. They had drafted a joint report of their experience which was currently being translated and would be available for the Branch's approval at our next meeting.

2) *21.03.12 – Siambur Hywel Debate*

A very successful and interesting debate on this year's Commonwealth theme of "**Connecting Cultures**" had been held, which included over 50 Welsh and International young people from Atlantic College, Fitzalan School and also Hannah and Jacob who had represented the Branch in Westminster.

Unfortunately, the late running of Assembly business meant that few Members were able to attend; however some very positive and encouraging feedback had been received by those involved and present.

A summary note and a link to photos of the event were available on the Branch's report webpages.

Recent visits to / by Commonwealth Countries

- *Singapore High Commissioner – 15 March 2012*

The Singapore High Commissioner had visited the Assembly on 15 March and met with the PO and available party leaders. A meeting with the Branch Executive had been requested but had unfortunately not been possible on this occasion.

5. FORWARD PLANNING

Forthcoming Meetings, Events and Conferences

- *BIMR Conference, Edinburgh 10-14 June 2012*

To date one expression of interest/business case had been submitted by Simon Thomas AM which had been distributed to Members and was subsequently approved.

Other Members present were encouraged to discuss this opportunity to represent the Branch at their group meetings later that morning and report back to AI so that business cases could be commissioned and the CPA Scotland Branch notified of our final delegation as soon as practical.

Action Point: AI to liaise with BEC Members and Party Groups to determine our Branch delegation and notify the CPA Scotland Branch accordingly.

- *58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Colombo, Sri Lanka - 10-14 September 2012*

Notification of this opportunity for one Branch Member had been distributed to Members the previous day with expressions of interest invited by 21 May. Any accepted applications would be considered at the next BEC meeting.

- *CPA UK and IPU joint International Parliamentary Conference on Gender, Westminster - 5-9 November 2012*

There was no further information about this conference at present but the dates noted. An official Branch notice would be sent to all Members in due course.

Forthcoming Visits – Scheduled and Proposed

- *Ugandan Parliament Delegation - 30 April-2 May 2012*

The Chair notified Members that a visit programme was being arranged for a small delegation from the Ugandan parliament's Standing Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline next week. Some Members would be meeting with the delegation as part of meetings with various Assembly Committees.

It was agreed for our Branch to host a dinner for the delegation.

Action Point: Members to notify AI of their availability so that he can organise this.

- *Victoria Parliament (Australia) Delegation- 8 May*

The Chair stated that a short visit by Members of the Victoria Parliament's Family & Community Development Committee would be meeting with Members of our Health & Social Care and Equality and Local Government committees.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Tuesday 29 May

7. NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Acting Branch Secretary
May 2012