



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday 15 November 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Joyce Watson AM, Chair
Mohammad Asghar AM
William Powell AM

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None Received

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Attendees present concurred with the minutes of the previous meeting

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

None.

4. REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

Feedback and follow-up of recent events and conferences

- *9th CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar, Ottawa, 16-22 October 2011*

William Powell AM's presented written report was approved by the Branch. William also gave a short supplementary report, stating that the Canadian Parliamentary Seminar had been very well organised

and had covered many areas of interest, including *the role of cultural/linguistic identity in political life; Citizen Engagement*; and the tight *regulation surrounding lobbying in Canada*. He wished to put on record his thanks to the Branch for selecting him to attend the seminar which had offered excellent networking opportunities and had been a very worthwhile experience.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to commission report translation and to post on Branch CPA report pages

Recent visits to / by Commonwealth Countries

- **Branch Sponsorship Scheme**

Darren Millar AM – South Africa (October 2011)

Apologies were accepted by Darren Millar who had been unable to attend the meeting as he had hoped. Darren would now be attending the next Branch meeting in the New Year to discuss his recent Branch Sponsored visit to South Africa.

- *Visit by the Destiny Africa Children's Choir (Uganda) – 01.11.2011*

The Chair discussed this recent event which had been a great success with very positive feedback received from all involved and had been brought in on budget.

Over 90 guests had attended the evening performance, including over a fifth of all Members and many young people representing a number of Welsh young people's organisations.

Furthermore, the visiting children from Uganda had the opportunity to visit the Senedd, view Plenary, and partake in a tailored bespoke session in Ty Hywel with our Education service where they had learned of democracy in Wales, the rights of children and the importance of having their voices heard to drive positive changes.

The Kampala Children's Centre's founder has encouragingly commented that learning of open, transparent and accountable democracy such as ours was very important to the children and their future potential.

Note: Videos and photos of the visit are now available on the Branch webpages.

- *Canadian High Commissioner – 03.11.11*

The Chair noted that the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr Gordon Campbell had met with the Presiding Officer on the afternoon of his visit and in the evening they were both present in the launch of the “*Treasures of a Nation: Canadian Landscapes*” exhibition in the Pierhead futures gallery.

Mohammad Asghar AM requested if it would be possible for Branch Members to meet visiting diplomats from Commonwealth countries.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to consider this as part of programmes for future visits.

5. FORWARD PLANNING

Forthcoming Conferences/Meetings

- *BIMR Conference, Edinburgh June 2012*

There was no further news to report on this conference

Forthcoming Events

- *Commonwealth Day – 12 March 2012, Westminster*

The Chair informed the Branch that the CPA Wales Branch would in the coming weeks be invited to nominate two young people to attend the official Commonwealth celebrations in Westminster on 12 March. Given the effectiveness of sourcing suitable young people through the Assembly’s Outreach Service for the recent Commonwealth Youth Conference, it was decided to continue to work with our Outreach Managers to consider young people from other organisations in Wales to represent the Branch at this year’s observance of Commonwealth Day in Westminster.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to liaise with the Outreach Managers to organise this in time for the Branch’s next meeting.

Commonwealth Day 2012 in the Assembly

The Branch decided that, instead of a Senedd reception, it would like to hold a young people’s Commonwealth debate in Siambwr Hywel.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to prepare options for this for consideration at the next Branch meeting.

Forthcoming Visits – Scheduled and Proposed

- Sir Alan Haslehurst MP, CPA Executive Committee Chair – date tbc

An invitation had been issued, via the Regional Secretary Andrew Tuggey DL, for Sir Alan Haslehurst to visit the Assembly but no confirmed dates as of yet. Members would be notified as soon as this visit had been arranged.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

24 January 2012 (provisional date).

7. NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- *Wales-Lesotho Legacy Report*

The Branch Secretariat gave a brief verbal background to the report. A discussion then followed and the Branch Members officially endorsed the Legacy Report's Recommendations.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to commission report translation and to post on Branch CPA pages.

- *Future CPA Wales Branch Focus to include “**People Trafficking**”*

The Branch Chair discussed how she would like to see the Branch focus part of its activity during this Assembly Term on the issue of People Trafficking. It was an issue on which she had campaigned and been involved with for many years, including attending CPA conferences on People Trafficking. The Chair wanted to bring to the forefront, through our Branch, the important and leading work which Wales was doing to highlight and combat people trafficking in its many different forms.

Action Point: Branch Secretariat to discuss with colleagues within the Assembly and the CPA and report back to the Branch with options of how the Branch might effectively work in this area.

Branch Secretariat
December 2011