

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Welsh Parliament

Minutes of the Senedd Branch Annual General Meeting 6 December 2023

<u>Welcome</u> The Chair welcomed those present and opened the AGM.

1. Minutes of Last AGM Meeting held on 23 November 2022

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Any Urgent Business

There was no urgent business

4. Report by the Senedd Branch Chair, Rhun ap Iorwerth MS

The Chair noted that it had been a productive year for the Branch.

There had been no changes in the Membership of the Branch Executive Committee during this period which had met formally as well as representing the Branch as part of visits and numerous activities. The Chair highlighted some notable activities over this reporting period, which had included: Alun Davies MS had been selected to participate in the CPA UK Trade Workshop for Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and Devolved Legislatures and Peredur Owen Griffiths MS had represented the Senedd at this year's Westminster Seminar.

This year's BIMR Conference, hosted by the CPA UK Branch, had also taken place in Westminster with the Senedd being represented by the Chair, the Branch Vice-President David Rees MS, Rhianon Passmore MS and Joyce Watson MS.

- Adam Price MS and Carolyn Thomas MS represented the Senedd at this year's Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, hosted by Ghana, which presented the opportunity to partake in discussions on a range of important issues, including on Gender Equality and LGBTQ+ Rights within the Commonwealth.
- The Senedd has been delighted to participate in a number of inward visits, including two from the Canadian federal parliament and it was a pleasure in June to welcome the CPA's Secretary General, Stephen Twigg to the Senedd.
- Whilst there had, disappointingly, not been a formal Regional Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians conference during this reporting period, Senedd Members had participated in a number of CWP Steering Committee meetings as well as other related activities.

Further details of these as well as of the interesting and important work undertaken by Branch Members on the Climate Emergency and Disabilities networks were available in the Annual Report and on the CPA's website.

5. <u>Closing</u>

The Chair noted that 2024 promised to be a busy and exciting year for the Branch with planned conferences in Malta, St Helena, Sydney and New Zealand, as well as inward visit programmes to the Senedd from the parliaments of Quebec a Fiji. The Chair thanked the Branch Secretariat for their Support and looked Forward to Members' continued interest and engagement in these and other opportunities, through our membership of the CPA.

6. Attendance:

Senedd Branch Members

- 1 Llywydd, Elin Jones MS (Branch President)
- 2. DPO David Rees MS (Branch Vice-President)
- 3. Rhun ap Iorwerth MS (Branch Chair)
- 4. Sam Rowlands MS (Branch Executive Committee)
- 5. Rhianon Passmore MS (Branch Executive Committee)
- 6. Natasha Asghar MS (Branch Executive Committee)
- 7. Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
- 8. Huw Irranca-Davies MS
- 9. Luke Fletcher MS
- 10. Mark Isherwood MS
- 11. Cefin Campbell MS

Branch Secretariat:

Manon Antoniazzi, Branch Secretary, Chief Executive & Clerk of the Senedd Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary,

<u>Observing:</u> Gwion Evans, Llywydd's Private Office Elin Sutton, Llywydd's Private Office Aled Lewis, Llywydd's Private Office.

> CPA Senedd Branch Secretariat December 2023