



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2014
5.30PM IN ROOM 29**

Present:

The President, Mr William Hay MLA
Mr Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr David McIveen MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

Apologies:

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Basil McCrea MLA
Ms Susie Brown, CPA Branch
Secretary Designate

Also In attendance:

Mr John Stewart, Director of Information & Outreach
Ms Louise Close, Outreach Manager
Mr Paul Stitt, Speaker's Office
Ms Nicola Crawford, Outreach (Minutes)

1. WELCOME

The President welcomed Members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the new Members of the Executive Committee attending their first meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Mr Stewart Dickson, Mr Alban Maginness and Mr Basil McCrea were unable to attend.

Ms Susie Brown, Branch Secretary Designate, sent her apologies. Ms Louise Close acted as Secretary for the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

4. COMMONWEALTH DAY 2014

The President asked the Secretary to update Members on the Commonwealth Day event.

The Secretary stated that the Commonwealth Games themed event was held on 12th March in the Great Hall and was attended by 120 people including 10 MLAs. A delegation from Dumfries and Galloway, Northern Ireland's host city for the Commonwealth Games, attended the event. There was excellent feedback received from all those who attended.

The President stated that the evening was very successful and thanked the staff for organising the event.

5. 44TH BRITISH ISLES & MEDITERRANEAN REGION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 27-30 MAY 2014

The Secretary advised Members that the 44th BIMR Conference would take place on 27 -30 May in Cardiff. She stated that the NI Assembly are assigned five places which include one place for a member of staff. Jo-Anne Dobson will take one place as the Assembly's member of the CWP Steering Committee.

The President stated that the BIMR Conference is very worthwhile and the Branch should show its support to the Welsh Assembly by sending a full delegation.

Ms Dobson stated that she would be delighted to attend and that the recent CWP Conference she attended in Edinburgh was extremely valuable experience.

ACTION: Parliamentary Outreach Co-ordinator to issue invitation to CPA Members and request applications to attend.

6. WESTMINSTER WORKSHOPS

The Secretary advised Members that two workshops will be taking place at Westminster in June:

- 63rd Westminster Workshop On Parliamentary Practice And Procedure
- 4th Westminster Workshop: The Role of Public Accounts and Other Parliamentary Committees in Financial Scrutiny of Public Expenditure

The Branch registered interest in attending both workshops. The Branch did not get a place on the 63rd Westminster Workshop on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure but did get a place on the 4th Westminster Workshop.

The Secretary suggested to Members that due to the topic of the workshop it would be more suitable for a member of the Public Accounts Committee to attend.

The President asked Members if they were happy to forward the invitation on to the PAC. Members agreed.

ACTION: Invitation to be forwarded to the Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee.

7. VISITS UPDATE

The President asked Members to take note of the inward visits to the Assembly since the last meeting and reminded Members of the importance of attending meetings with visiting VIPs.

8. A.O.B

No other business.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General meeting on **Monday 23rd June 2014 at 5.00pm in Room 29.**



**WILLIAM HAY MLA
PRESIDENT**

DRAFT