



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2014
5.00PM IN ROOM 21

Present:

The President, Mr William Hay MLA
Mr Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Apologies:

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 (Deputy Secretary)
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 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.

Proposed: David McIlveen

Seconded: Robin Swann

4. 44TH BRITISH ISLES & MEDITERRANEAN REGION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 27-30 MAY 2014

The President advised Members that the 44th BIMR Conference took place on 27 -30 May in Cardiff 2014. Jo-Anne Dobson MLA and Jim Wells MLA attended on behalf of the Assembly. The President asked Ms Dobson to update the Members about the Conference.

Ms Dobson stated that the Conference had been a very valuable experience and that she had particularly enjoyed her role as a rapporteur on the "More than a matter of numbers – How are Women Making a Difference?" workshop. She thanked Nicola Crawford as delegation secretary and Jim Wells.

5. 60TH CPC CAMEROON, 2-10 OCTOBER 2014

The President advised Members that the CPA Cameroon Branch will host the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in October 2014.

He stated that the NI Assembly Branch has been invited to send one delegate who can be accompanied by an observer or Clerk attending the Society of Clerks at the Table (SOCATT). Places are on a 'first come, first served' basis.

The Secretary advised Members of the costs of the trip and that it is Northern Ireland's turn to provide secretarial support to the NI Assembly, Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament delegations.

Mr McIlveen stated that he had attended the conference last year in Johannesburg and that the Assembly can contribute greatly while there and attendance at the CPC helps to keep the Assembly relevant within the Commonwealth.

The Members agreed to send one MLA and one Clerk to the Conference.

ACTION: Parliamentary Outreach Co-ordinator to email Members requesting applications to attend the conference.

6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The President advised the Members that the Branch rules state that a new Executive Committee should be elected at the Branch's Annual General Meeting, however, as there are only three Executive Committee meetings a year it does not allow for Members to gain any significant insight or experience of the Executive Committee, it also affects the continuity of the Committee.

He therefore suggested that the issue be raised at the AGM in September for Members to consider the option of amending the Branch rules to allow for Executive Committee Members to sit in post for a full mandate.

Mr Dickson asked if Parties would be able to co-op a different Member in if necessary during this period? The Secretary advised him that this would be able to happen.

The Members were content for this to be raised at the AGM in September.

7. BRANCH BUDGET

For information.

8. VISITS UPDATE

The President asked Members to take note of the inward visits to the Assembly since the last meeting.

9. A.O.B

Mr McIlveen stated that he had attended a lunch with Mr Javid Musayev, a John Smith Fellow, from Azerbaijan and had discussed working with the Parliament there in a similar arrangement to the current one with Kosovo.

Mr Stewart stated that such an arrangement could be considered and added to the External Relations Strategy.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General meeting on **Monday 29th September 2014 at 5.00pm in Room to be confirmed.**

**WILLIAM HAY MLA
PRESIDENT**