

DRAFT

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH

**MEETING ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015 AT 5.00PM IN ROOM 29,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Present:

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA, President
Mr Jonathan Craig MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA
Ms Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Sean Rogers MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MLA
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Ms Sandra Overend MLA

Apologies:

Mr Danny Kennedy MLA
Mr Danny Kinahan MLA
Mr Basil McCrea MLA

In attendance:

Ms Susie Brown, Head of Outreach & Communications (CPA Branch Secretary)
Mr John Stewart, Director of Information & Outreach
Mr Robin Ramsey, Adviser to the Speaker
Ms Roisin Fleetham, Outreach Manager
Ms Nicola Crawford, Parliamentary Outreach Co-Ordinator (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES

The President welcomed Members of the CPA NI Branch to the meeting and agreed that apologies would be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 29th September 2014 were agreed unanimously.

Proposed by Mr Robin Swann; Seconded by Ms Sandra Overend.

3. ALTERATION OF BRANCH RULES AND ELECTION OF A BRANCH CHAIR

The President advised Members that it was agreed at the last Executive Committee meeting that agreement be sought from CPA Members for an alteration of the Branch rules to allow for a Branch Chairperson to be elected to manage the day to day running of the Branch.

The President then asked for agreement from Members to implement this change to the Branch rules.

Proposed by Mr Stewart Dickson; Seconded by Mr Alban Maginness.

The President thanked Members and advised that the rules would be amended accordingly and a copy issued.

The President then advised that in advance of the meeting CPA Members were asked to nominate a Member of the Executive Committee as Branch Chairperson and that one nomination was received for Robin Swann MLA. Therefore, as the only nominee, Mr Swann assumes the role of Branch Chair with immediate effect.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- **Annual Commonwealth Conference**

The President advised Members that this year's Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference would be held in Pakistan in September and that the Branch is waiting for an official invitation and further information.

5. ANNUAL REPORT ON BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The Annual Report gave Members information about the visits and conferences attended by CPA Members over the last year and the Commonwealth countries that visited the Assembly. It also covered the event held in Parliament Buildings to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2015.

The report was noted by all Members.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will take place in June 2016, date and room to be confirmed.

The President stated that the CPA Northern Ireland Branch is continuing to act as a successful platform for international engagement and he thanked Members for their continued assistance with Commonwealth visitors.

The President thanked Members for attending.

The President adjourned the meeting.

Mitchel McLaughlin MLA
President