



**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Executive Committee,
Monday 28 January at 5.00pm
Room 21**

Present:

The President, Mr William Hay MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr David McClarty MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies:

Mr Basil McCrea MLA

Also In attendance:

Mr John Stewart, Director of Information & Outreach
Ms Susie Brown, Acting Head of Outreach & Education (CPA Branch Secretary Designate)
Mrs Louise Close, Outreach Manager
Ms Frances Leneghan, PS to the Speaker
Ms Nicola Rafferty, Outreach (Minutes)

1. WELCOME

The President welcomed Members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Mr Basil McCrea was unable to attend.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW BRANCH SECRETARY

The President advised Members that Peter Hall has returned to the Clerking and Reporting Directorate and that Susie Brown is now the acting Head of Outreach and Education. The President introduced Ms Brown to Members and proposed that she replace Peter Hall as Secretary of the Executive Committee. David McClarty seconded the proposal.

5. CPA REVIEW

The President asked the Secretary to update Members on the current review of the Branch.

The Secretary advised Members that the questionnaires had been issued to all CPA Members for completion and that the results of the questionnaires had been compiled and a report written. The Secretary advised Members to take the report away to read and that she would be in contact with them to ask for feedback. The feedback received from the Members will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr Maginness stated that the most important issue is attracting new Members to join the CPA. The President agreed that this is very important and that Members should think of ways to help recruit MLAs to the CPA.

6. BIMR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The President advised that the BIMR Annual Conference will take place in the Falkland Islands from the 11th-15th February and that he will be attending on behalf of the NI Assembly.

The draft programme for the conference was given to Members for information.

7. FUNDING OF BIMR CONFERENCES

The Secretary advised Members that at the last AGM in Scotland there was discussion about the future funding of CPA BIMR conferences. Currently the host country pays for everything other than travel.

CPA UK has now put together a scoping paper regarding funding and a draft amendment to the CPA constitution. The amendment not only covers the funding issue, but also a reduction in the length of the annual conference.

The Secretary outlined the four options proposed and asked Members to consider them. CPA UK has asked Branches to consider and decide which of the four options they favour.

David McClarty questioned whether a reduction in the length of the conference would reduce the number of presentations.

Stewart Dickson stated that there is an obvious split on this issue between the UK Branch and other Branches who have to travel further to attend the conferences. It is difficult to justify such travel for a shorter conference.

Mr McClarty declared his support for option four - *he who pays goes* - but that the conference is held over two days.

The other Members agreed with Mr McClarty.

The President confirmed that the NI Assembly Branch will support option four.

**8. ELECTION OF BIMR COMMONWEALTH WOMEN
PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) REPRESENTATIVE**

The President asked the Secretary to brief Members on the forthcoming election.

The Secretary advised that an e-election will take place on Tuesday 26 March to elect a regional CWP representative to serve for three years. As a large branch, CPA NI will have four votes to cast.

Candidate details will be circulated to Branches on Tuesday 26th February. Once these are received they will be circulated to Executive Committee Members and a decision will be taken at the next meeting on Tuesday 19th March on who the Branch will vote for.

9. COMMONWEALTH DAY 2013

The President advised Members that due to the success of the Commonwealth Day concert held last year it has been suggested that the Branch hold another concert this year.

As Derry/Londonderry is the current UK City of Culture it has been proposed that the concert is held in the Great Hall of Magee Campus on 14 March 2013.

The President asked Members if they were happy for the concert to be held in Derry/Londonderry. All Members were content.

10. WESTMINSTER WORKSHOPS

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

- 62nd Westminster Workshop On Parliamentary Practice And Procedure
- 3rd Westminster Workshop: The Public Accounts Committee

Once more information has been received the Selection Committee will decide on whether to send a delegate to these workshops.

11. BRANCH BUDGET

The Branch budget was presented to Members for their information.

12. INWARD VISITS

The Secretary asked Members to take note of the inward visits to the Assembly since the last meeting in November.

13. AOB

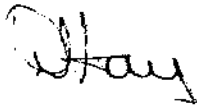
The President advised Members that the Commonwealth of Australia Branch decided that it would cease to be a member of the CPA with effect from 31 December 2012 due to the perceived accountability issues of CPA International.

However, the Australian CPA Regional Branches will be remaining in the CPA.

CPA Papua New Guinea has also decided to cease membership due to issues with the subscription fee.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th March 2013 in Room 29.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hay". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

**WILLIAM HAY MLA
PRESIDENT**