

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH

**MEETING ON MONDAY 27 JUNE 2011 AT 5.00PM IN ROOM 21,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Present:

The President, Mr William Hay MLA
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MLA
Mr Simon Hamilton MLA
Ms Arlene Foster MLA
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Danny Kennedy MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA
Mr Basil McCrea MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA

Apologies:

Mr Jim Wells MLA
Ms Sandra Overend MLA
Mr Danny Kinahan MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Robin Newton MLA
Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA

In attendance:

Ms Sheila McClelland, Head of Outreach & Education
Mr Robin Ramsey, Special Advisor to the Speaker
Ms Louise Simpson, Outreach Manager
Mr Stephen Todd, External Liaison Unit

1. APOLOGIES

The President welcomed members of the CPA NI Branch 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 20th June 2009 were agreed unanimously.

3. Interprovincial Organisation

7th July – Visit by the Interprovincial Pakistan group: Possibility of Executive Committee meeting with group.
The President advised that further information will follow. Ms Sheila McClelland will see that packs are provided for the members.

4. Youth Conference

The President proposed to send 2 members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Youth Panel to the Youth Conference. The vote was agreed unanimously.

Youth Panel attending will be: Darren O'Reilly & Anna Chestnut.

5. 57th CPC 21st-28th July 2011

Mr Basil McCrea MLA was nominated to attend the 57th CPC. The Speaker proposed the motion and it was agreed.

Mr Danny Kennedy asked was the conference restricted to one place. Sheila McClelland confirmed this.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

There are spaces on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in India for new parliamentarians. A place has not yet been secured.

The President expressed concerns over the cost.

CPA Budget

Mr Roy Beggs asked what the annual budget was.
Ms Sheila McClelland advised that it was currently being finalised.

The President expressed that the NI CPA Branch can send people to conferences, but that any attendance at seminars or conferences must be justified.

Ms McClelland and Ms Foster emphasised that it was important to show the value of attendance at any of these events.

Mr Basil McCrea MLA, Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA and Mr Roy Beggs MLA left the meeting at this stage due to prior commitments.

BIMR

The BIMR conference is held once a year- Mr David McClarty MLA attended last year's conference.

Visits

On the 27th September 2010, the Scottish CPA Branch visited the NI Branch.

Mr Gregory Campbell MLA attended the CPA World Bank Institute Conference in Vienna from 26 – 29 October 2010.

Commonwealth Day

Previous years have been themed around Science and Technology and Women as Agents of Change. It was expressed that it can be difficult to ensure that the Commonwealth Day is totally relevant.

Ms McClelland gave a briefing on "International Delegations".

Mr Leslie Cree MLA voiced concern over one line comment on the conference in Kenya, suggesting that it would not stand up to scrutiny. The President and Ms McClelland advised a full report was, in fact, submitted on the conference.

ACTION: Report to be issued to members.

Ms McClelland expressed that MLAs returning from conferences should give feedback on the conference to the Executive Committee. The President advised that this should be better formalised.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICER HOLDERS

The following Members were elected to office:

President	- Mr William Hay (ex officio)
Vice-Presidents	- First Minister and deputy First Minister (ex officio)

Agreed: Members agreed that the President will write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister inviting them to accept the office of Vice-Presidents (ex-officio).

7. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following nominations for election to the Executive Committee were received:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
- Mr S Dickson	Mr C Lyttle	Ms A Lo
- Mr D McClarty	Mr M Nesbitt	Mr D McClarty
- Mr B McCrea	Mr T Elliott	Mr R Swann
- Mr J Wells	Mr P Givan	Mr P Weir
- Dr A McDonnell	Dr A McDonnell	Mr P Ramsey
- Mr J Spratt	Mr P Girvan	Mr G Campbell

Proposed by Mr Simon Hamilton; Seconded by Mr Danny Kennedy.

8. ELECTION OF SELECTION COMMITTEE

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
- Mr S Dickson	Ms A Lo	Mr C Lyttle
- Mr D McClarty		
- Mr S Moutray	Mr Paul Givan	Mr P Weir
- Ms J Dobson	Mr R Swann	Mr J McCallister
- Dr A McDonnell		
- Mr J Spratt		

Proposed by Mr Leslie Cree; Seconded by Mr Simon Hamilton.

9. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

The Clerk and Director General nominated Ms Sheila McClelland to be Secretary.

Proposed by Mr Leslie Cree; Seconded by Ms Jo-Anne Dobson.

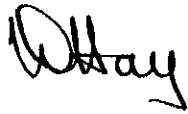
10. NEXT MEETING

The next CPA Branch Meeting will take place in September (date to be confirmed).

The President advised the CPA has moved on a lot over the years and that it was a good tool to get on an international stage.

The President thanked members and Ms McClelland for attending.

The President adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Hay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a trailing flourish.

William Hay MLA
The President.