

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BRANCH

**MEETING ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 2013 AT 5.00PM IN ROOM 29,
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Present:

The President, Mr William Hay MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Ms Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Ms Sandra Overend MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA
Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Stephen Moutray MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA

Apologies:

Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Leslie Cree MLA
Mr Sean Rogers MLA

In attendance:

Mr John Stewart, Director of Information & Outreach
Ms Susie Brown, Acting Head of Outreach & Education (CPA Branch
Secretary Designate)
Mr Paul Stitt, Speaker's Office
Ms Nicola Rafferty, 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 25th June 2012 were agreed unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- **Annual Commonwealth Conference**

The President advised Members that this year's Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference will be held in Johannesburg in September and David McIlveen MLA will represent the NI CPA Branch. Trevor Reaney, Clerk of the Assembly, will accompany Mr McIlveen and attend the Clerks-at-the-Table conference.

4. ANNUAL REVIEW

The Annual Review 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 concert held in Derry/Londonderry to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2013. The concert was held at Magee College to recognise the city's status as the first UK City of Culture. It was an extremely successful event with excellent feedback received from everyone who attended.

The report was noted by all Members.

The President stated that Members needed to continue to attend lunches/meetings with visiting delegations. He advised Members that MLAs do not always turn up for arranged meetings with VIP visitors or leave after a few minutes and that this must not be allowed to happen. He stated that it is sending out the wrong message to visitors, causing embarrassment, and that a solution must be found to prevent this from happening.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President introduced and welcomed new Member, Ms Michelle McIlveen, to the CPA.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next CPA Executive Committee meeting will take place on 23rd September 2013 in Room 29.

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.

William Hay MLA
President