



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

**MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**  
**4.30PM IN ROOM 21**

**Present:**

Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA, Chair  
Mr Jim Wells MLA  
Ms Brenda Hale MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA  
Mr William Humphrey MLA

**Apologies:**

Mr Doug Beattie MLA

**Also In attendance:**

Ms Maeve Donnelly, CPA Branch Secretary  
Ms Nicola Crawford, Engagement & Outreach (Minutes)

**1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Members of the CPA NI Executive Branch to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Mr Doug Beattie was unable to attend.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

**Proposed: Stewart Dickson**  
**Seconded: Robin Swann**

#### **4. FORTHCOMING CPA EVENTS**

##### **ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, 11-17 DECEMBER, LONDON**

The Chair advised Members that the 62<sup>nd</sup> CPC, which was due to take place in Bangladesh in September, has been rescheduled and will now take place in London on the 11-17 December.

It was agreed at the annual general meeting in June that Jo-Anne Dobson, as Branch Chair, will attend the conference on behalf of the Assembly.

#### **5. HOSTING THE CWP CONFERENCE**

The Chair informed Members that the CPA Northern Ireland Assembly Branch will host the next annual Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in March 2017.

Delegations of female parliamentarians from the British Isles and Mediterranean Region will be invited to attend the conference.

The theme of the conference is 'Mental Health: Keeping Women in Mind' and will focus on the areas that most affect women's mental health in today's society.

#### **6. COMMONWEALTH DAY 2016**

The Chair advised Members that Initial planning is underway for the Commonwealth Day 2017 event.

The theme for Commonwealth Day is 'A Peace-Building Commonwealth' and the proposal is to take members of the CPA to local projects based around peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. This is a new concept for the Commonwealth Day celebration.

The members agreed that this was a good concept for Commonwealth Day and Mr Humphrey suggested that the CPA members visit youth organisations and stated that the Scout and Guide Associations both have connections to the Commonwealth.

## **7. VISITS UPDATE**

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

The Chair also updated the members on the visit to Northern Ireland by the new CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan in September. It was a two-day visit that included one day in the Assembly and one day visiting two local schools, Lurgan College and Dromore Central Primary School, with his CPA Roadshow.

The visit was a resounding success with great local media coverage and very positive feedback received from the schools involved and Mr Khan.

## **8. A.O.B**

No other business.

## **9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm, Room TBC** and will include a presentation from the CPA Secretary General following on from the CWP Conference.

**JO-ANNE DOBSON MLA  
CHAIR**