MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF CPA SCOTLAND BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012 AT 12.45PM IN ROOM Q1.04

Present: Margaret Mitchell MSP  
Tavish Scott MSP (Chair)  
Sandra White MSP  
Margaret Neal (Secretary)

In attendance: Margaret McDougall MSP  
Dr Stephen Herbert, Senior Parliamentary Relations Officer  
Sally Coyne, Media Relations Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Patricia Ferguson MSP

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Member’s Report on the 22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar, New Delhi

Margaret McCulloch noted the heavy agenda for the conference; the disparity of views between developing countries and developed countries with regard to issues such as the budget available; the amount Parliamentarians are paid etc.; the role of emerging Parliament’s was discussed and that the Scottish Parliament was a young Parliament also emphasised. The role of media was discussed informally. There was no real discussion of different sitting times in different Parliaments. Margaret McDougall left the meeting at 1.00pm.

CPA UK Branch Millennium Development Goals Conference

It was noted that Sarah Boyack MSP had recently submitted her report. The report would be put into house style and posted on the website.
4. British Islands and Mediterranean Region Annual Conference June 2012

Members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) were broadly happy with the conference programme. It was agreed that: the cultural day should be removed from the programme. It was noted that the PO would chair all Chamber events but that a role for members of the BEC would be found for other sessions. The Media Relations Officer was requested to rework the media panel as discussed and to also include a current political editor.

5. Forward Programme of Activities/Financial Paper

The Secretary was asked to re-advertise the Belfast conference to all Branch Members. Sandra White MSP indicated that if no other applications were received that she would be available to attend.

Members of the BEC also agreed that the invitation to attend the Public Participation Conference in Johannesburg from 29 February to 2 March 2012, which was being organised by the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, should be put to the Public Petitions Committee, via the Clerk, for consideration.

The BEC also agreed that the invitation from the United Nations Development Programme and CPA, to send a delegate to the Climate Change Conference in Bangladesh from 14-16 March 2012, should be advertised to all Members. The Secretary was asked to emphasise that Members must demonstrate their knowledge of, and involvement with climate change issues.

It was further agreed that the invitation to attend the 23rd Parliamentary Seminar in Samoa should be declined.

6. CPA Scotland Branch Working Practices

Margaret Mitchell and Tavish Scott were content with working practices. Patricia Ferguson and Sandra White would provide their comments by e-mail. If any issues were raised these were to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Commonwealth Week 2012

Overall, the BEC were content with the draft programme. The Secretary was asked to ensure that the two Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament who were attending the CPA event in London, were invited to the CPA Scotland Branch event on Wednesday 14 March.

Members of the BEC agreed to e-mail the Secretary with any ideas about other groups for possible inclusion on the guest list.

The BEC agreed to minor amendments to the draft Business Motion. The Secretary was requested to amend the motion as discussed and circulate to Members of the
BEC for approval. Margaret Mitchell agreed to lodge the motion once the wording had been agreed.

8. Engagement with Malawi

The Secretary was asked to e-mail the Malawi situational analysis report commissioned by the Department for International Development and the Malawi Intern programme to Members of the BEC for information.


The BEC Committee suggested that good governance; drug trafficking / terrorism; managing change; migration; the fourth estate; Public Audit; and financial accountability should be put forward to the CPA as suggested topics for discussion at the CPC.

10. Any Other Business

There were no items for consideration.

11. Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday 29 February 2012: Room Q1.04 12.45pm
- Wednesday 28 March 2012: Room Q1.04 12.45pm
- Wednesday 25 April 2012: Room Q1.04 12.45pm
- Wednesday 30 May 2012: Room Q1.04 12.45pm
- Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 20 June 2012: Committee Room 2 1.00pm

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