MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE CPA SCOTLAND BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 12.45PM IN ROOM Q1.04

Present: Patricia Ferguson MSP
         Margaret Mitchell MSP (Chair)
         Tavish Scott MSP
         Sandra White MSP

In attendance: Margaret Neal, Secretary
                Stephen Herbert, Senior Parliamentary Relations Officer
                Sally Coyne, Media Relations Officer
                Roy Devon, Head of Exhibitions and Events

1. Apologies

   No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 February 2013

   The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Oral update on attendance at the 43rd British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) conference in the Falkland Islands by Margaret Mitchell MSP and Stuart MacMillan MSP

   Margaret Mitchell MSP and Stuart MacMillan MSP attended the BIMR Conference. The theme of the Conference was “Self-Determination and its role in Self Governance and Devolution”.

   Both Members gave their accounts of the Conference which both found to be extremely informative, thought provoking and relevant. Both Members also reported that they had contributed to all plenary sessions and workshops, with Margaret Mitchell chairing Plenary Session 1 in which Baroness Scotland described and defined referenda and self-determination from an international legal perspective.

   Both Members reported that they had also felt that there was scope for Scottish companies to share knowledge and experience with the Falkland Islands and had encouraged Falkland Island Members and representatives from the oil and gas industry to contact Scotland Development International.

   It was noted that a Conference report would be available in due course.
4. **Oral update on the Proposed Visit by the President of Malawi, Dr Joyce Banda, to the Scottish Parliament by an official from the Scottish Parliament's Events and Exhibitions Team.**

It was noted that confirmation in relation to a possible visit by Dr Banda had still not been received. However Branch Executive Committee Members were advised about the possible shape a visit programme might take, should confirmation be received.

5. **Forward Programme of Activities / Financial Paper**

The contents of Paper/S4/12-13/6/1 were noted. However concern was expressed, unanimously, over the high costs relating to some of the activities in relation to the 2013/14 financial year. Members of the Branch Executive Committee asked that a paper be provided containing a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Johannesburg in September 2013 and also the costs of the proposed visit to South Africa which may include a visit to Malawi to deliver the next stage of the TAP2.

Members further **agreed** at the next meeting to review and re-prioritise, if necessary, all activity relating to the 2013/14 financial year.

The Branch Secretary was asked to explore the possibility of changing the venue for the David Livingstone reception to another space within the Parliament.

**Recent Invitations Received**

Members **agreed** that the invitations to attend the Westminster Seminar and the PAC workshops should be declined and also **agreed** that the Secretary should write to CPA Canada Branch and apply for a place at the CPA Canada Parliamentary Seminar to be held from 2-8 June 2013.

6. **Any Other Business**

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Group**

Members of the Branch Executive Committee were advised that at the British Islands and Mediterranean Region Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held in the Falkland Islands on 13 February, it was **agreed** that an e-voting process would be adopted to select the regional CWP representative for the 3 year term from 2013-16.

In accordance with the agreed procedure, Patricia Ferguson MSP had submitted her short CV and statement by the due date. Statements and CVs for the other candidates were received on 26 February and were therefore tabled at the meeting.

Members **agreed** that Patricia Ferguson would receive all 4 votes from Scotland Branch.

Members were also advised that all BIMR Branch Executive Committees had been asked to support a CPA BIMR CWP Steering Committee. During the AGM held in the Falkland Islands it was recommended that each Branch
should nominate a female parliamentarian to join a Regional CWP Steering Committee (RCSC) in order to support the soon-to-be-elected Regional CWP Representative.

If agreed, by a majority of the 13 Regional Branch Executive Committees, the first meeting of the RCSC would take place in late April / early May 2013 at Westminster with a teleconference facility for those not able to travel to London, in order to map out future plans and in particular to discuss candidacies for the election of the CPA CWP Chairperson which will be held at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Jo’burg during the first week of September 2013.

**Funding of future BIMR Conferences**

It was recommended during the BIMR AGM, held in the Falklands that each Branch should decide on one of two options for the funding of future BIMR conferences to take effect for the BIMR conference to be hosted by Wales in late May 2014, over a two day period, with an optional self-funding culture day.

At the BIMR AGM the Scotland Branch expressed its view which was in favour of the status quo. During the BIMR AGM, a decision could not be reached although the following 2 options were favoured by delegates.

Option A) the status quo - the host Branch pays for the conference.

Option B) Delegates fund their return travel to the conference and their bed and breakfast accommodation at the conference hotel (one hotel to be reserved for conference delegates by the host Branch), and the host Branch to meet all other conference costs.

All Branches had therefore been asked to re-consider these options by 12.00pm on Monday 24 March. The Regional Secretary would announce the consolidated results on Tuesday 25 March 2013.

Members of the Branch Executive Committee agreed that Scotland Branch should express a preference for option A.

**Interns from the National Assembly of Malawi**

Members of the Branch Executive Committee agreed to meet with the interns for an informal, introductory meeting.

7. Dates of next meetings

- Wed 29 May 2013 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04
- Thursday 13 June – Annual General Meeting TBC
- Wed 26 June 13 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04

Secretary, CPA Scotland Branch
The Scottish Parliament
Email: margaret.neal@scottish.parliament.uk