CPA SCOTLAND BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 5.05PM IN TG.44

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

In attendance: Margaret Neal, Secretary
Stephen Herbert, Senior Parliamentary Relations Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Patricia Ferguson MSP.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2014

It was agreed that the Secretary should reflect that discussion in relation to Malawi was still under consideration and no firm decisions had been made.

The Secretary was also asked to bring back the AWEPA paper (CPA Paper /S4/13-14/5/6) for further discussion at the next meeting. It was felt that this matter had not been fully discussed at the meeting which took place on 29 January 2014.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Commonwealth Day Debate

The Secretary advised Members that the Conservative Group had provided their slot for Members’ Business on 12 March to hold a debate on the Commonwealth to commemorate Commonwealth Week. The Secretary was asked to draft a motion in keeping with the theme for Commonwealth Day which was “Team-Scotland”. Members agreed that invitations should be issued to Consuls from Commonwealth countries based in Scotland and that the Minister for External Affairs and International Development should be invited to address MSPs and invited guests.
26 March 2014

4. Forward Programme of Activities / Financial Paper

It was agreed that a notice should be issued to all Members inviting applications from Members to attend the 63rd Westminster Seminar. It was further agreed that the Scotland Branch should apply for a place at the 11th CPA Canada Seminar which would take place in Ottawa in June 2014. It was agreed that the content of the paper in relation to the proposed visit to Malawi required a more detailed proposal at the next meeting.

A short discussion took place about funding for CWP activities particularly the level of support provided by the CPA.

The estimated position at the end of the financial year was noted.

5. Malawi: post-election outward visit June 2014

This item was discussed under item 4.

6. Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Group

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Glasgow 2014 – 33Fifty programme

Members of the Branch Executive Committee were updated on progress in relation to the proposed visit by a small group of 33/Fifty participants to the Scottish Parliament on 19 July 2014. It was agreed that a Member of the Committee should meet the group. However, given that this visit would take place during summer recess, the Secretary was also asked to invite a local Member with an interest in energy and environmental issues.

8. Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians BIMR CWP Conference

Margaret Mitchell MSP confirmed that Ruth Davidson MSP would participate as a lead speaker for session 4 (media session). The Members also agreed that MSP staff/interns and SPCB staff who request to attend the conference should be able to do so.

Members considered the draft programme and delegates list and were content with arrangements.

9. CPA Mentoring Programme

Members agreed that CPA Scotland Branch should participate in the CPA Mentoring Programme and noted that there would be costs associated with a Member travelling overseas for an exchange visit. The Branch Secretary was asked to advertise this opportunity to Members, requesting that interested Members should provide a case to support their application.

10. 11th Canadian Parliamentary Conference
26 March 2014

This item was discussed under item 4.

11. Any Other Business

No matters were discussed under this item.

12. Dates of next meetings

- Wed 26 March 2014 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04
- 30 April 2014 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04
- 28 May 2014 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04
- 19 June 2014 Annual General Meeting at 1.00pm
- 25 June 2014 at 12.45pm in Room Q1.04

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