MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE CPA SCOTLAND BRANCH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010 IN
ROOM Q1.04 at 12.45pm

Present:

Ted Brocklebank MSP
Karen Gillon MSP (Chair)
Jamie Stone MSP
Sandra White MSP
Margaret Neal (Secretary)

In attendance: Billy McLaren, Senior Parliamentary Relations Officer

1. **Apologies**

No apologies received.

2. **Minutes from the 2nd Meeting and Matters Arising: CPA/S3/10-11/3/DM**

Members of the Branch Executive Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting.

**Lachlan Macquarie Anniversary**

The Secretary reported that the Presiding Officer had written to the Scottish Government Minister with responsibility for international economic development advising that the Secretariat and Members of the delegation had raised matters arising about the 200th anniversary year during the Australian visit in 2009 with both the government officials and other bodies.

The Secretary further reported that Members had raised the profile of the bicentenary during parliamentary debates.
The Secretary was asked to draft an appropriate motion to acknowledge the 200th anniversary in 2010 of the appointment of Lachlan Macquarie as Governor of New South Wales for approval at the next meeting. The Branch Executive Committee also agreed that the motion should be lodged by all 4 Members of the Executive Committee in time to mark the birth date of Lachlan Macquarie.

**Action (3.1): Secretary to draft an appropriate motion to acknowledge the 200th anniversary for consideration at the next meeting.**

**Visit to Scotland Branch by Janet Ryder AM, Regional Representative for the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR)**

The visit by Ms Ryder on 11 November was noted. The Branch Executive Committee welcomed the opportunity to meet with Ms Ryder. The Secretary reported that the issues around CPA governance was subject to rapid on going changes due to recent correspondence between members of the Working Group and the CPA Secretariat.

### 3. CPA resources and forward programme of activity: CPA/S3/10-11/3/1

Members also noted the current state of play in relation to other Branch activities which were as follows:

- The National Assembly had nominated an intern from the Clerk of Parliament’s Office. The intern would hopefully travel with the delegation to the UK following the January visit.

- The Branch Executive Committee were disappointed to learn that the Pilot Parliamentary Pairing Initiative (PPPI) Group meeting had not been well attended. The Secretary reported that the poor attendance was related to parliamentary business that day. Robin Harper MSP was corresponding with the First Deputy Speaker, whom he met during the Festival of Politics. Des McNulty had offered to provide finance scrutiny information for workshops and to brief the delegation for the January visit to the National assembly of Malawi. Michael Matheson informed the group that Sister Anna Tomassi, who had arranged for the February 2010 delegation to visit Zomba High Security Prison, paid for children to stay overnight in prison with their mothers. Faith groups in Falkirk were currently raising funds to build a new kitchen at the women’s section of Chichiri prison in Blantyre. Maureen Watt also outlined links with the Ann Gloag Fisula foundation and Scotland.
• Linda Fabiani MSP would attend the International Governance Seminar in London from Sunday 14 November to Monday 15 November as previously agreed by the Branch Executive Committee.

• The Secretariat advised that officials were waiting on confirmation from the National Assembly of what officials should do and also further suggestions over what might be included in the next 3 year period. The Secretary was asked to arrange a further ad-hoc meeting to discuss the January programme and TAP2. Further consideration around the technical assistance project with the National of Assembly (TAP2) was deferred until the next meeting.

• A lengthy discussion took place about the planned visits to Malawi early in 2011. Members noted that a notice to Members inviting applications for the visit in January had been sent. Members expressed concern about the handling of the programme for the special envoy visit in February. Particular concern was raised that the special envoy may not visit Blantyre where many excellent projects with Scottish links were based. The Secretary was asked to arrange a separate meeting with officials involved in the planning process at the earliest opportunity to ensure that Members could provide input at an early stage. Members further agreed that it would be advisable to recce some of the projects in January. Members also noted that the Scottish Government had marked the 5th anniversary of the signing of the collaboration agreement at government level by arranging a series of events. The First Minister had congratulated Lord McConnell on his contribution which demonstrated that there is still strong support across the Scottish Parliament for this engagement.

Action (3.2): Secretary to arrange a separate meeting with officials involved in the planning process of the February visit.


   Members of the Branch Executive Committee agreed that this item should be deferred until the next meeting.

   Action (3.3): Secretary to ensure that this item is on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

5. **Handover Paper: CPA/S3/10-11/3/3**

   Members of the Branch Executive Committee agreed that this item should be deferred to the next meeting.
Action (3.4): Secretary to ensure that this item is on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

6. **Australia New Zealand follow-up action: CPA/S3/10-11/3/4**

   Members of the Branch Executive Committee agreed that this item should be deferred to the next meeting.

Action (3.5): Secretary to ensure that this item is on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

7. **Commonwealth Week 2011: CPA/S3/10-11/3/5**

   The draft outline programme for Commonwealth Day was agreed. The Secretariat was asked to ensure that the menu reflected culinary diversity within the Commonwealth. The Secretary was asked to speak to the Convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee about the possibility of putting forward a motion for debate to mark Commonwealth Day. The Secretary advised Members that by convention, the Branch tended not to secure this slot in an election year and therefore a contingency plan should be prepared. Members also agreed to speak to Business Managers about the possibility of securing the Members' Business slot on Wednesday 16 March.

Action (3.6): Secretary to speak to the Convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee as above.

Action (3.7): Members to speak to Business Managers about the possibility of securing the slot at 5pm on Wednesday 16 March for a Members' Debate.

8. **Any other business**

**Commonwealth Plenary Conference**

The Secretary advised that the Branch had been asked to provide topics for discussion at the Commonwealth Plenary Conference which was due to be held in London in July 2011 by 31 December. Members agreed that this matter should be dealt with by e-mail.

**Visit by the Regional Secretary**

Members agreed that the Secretary should write to the Regional Secretary advising that they would be available to meet him, as requested, on 2 December 2010.
Action (3.8): Secretary to make arrangements for a visit by the Regional Secretary.

9. Dates of next meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Jan</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Room Q.104</td>
<td>Sandra White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 2 Mar</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Room Q.104</td>
<td>Ted Brocklebank</td>
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