Present:

Ted Brocklebank MSP (Chair)
Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Jamie Stone MSP
Margaret Neal (Secretary)

In attendance: Ian Perry (ELU)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies received from Karen Gillon MSP

2. **Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on Wednesday 10 December 2008**

Approved

3. **Matters Arising**

**UK Branch (CPA UK) International Development Seminar from 16-22 Nov 2008**

Robin Harper MSP attended the meeting to give an oral report of his attendance at the Seminar. Robin attended 22 sessions and found the experience invaluable to learn about the current issues in relation to international development and to hear from parliamentarians who were from jurisdiction in receipt of international development funding. Mr Harper was particularly impressed by the degree of openness during discussion about corruption.

One of the key messages from this Seminar was that parliamentarians were keen to pursue good governance development. Attendees were urged to encourage developing parliaments to ensure the scrutiny of aid funding.

**CPA Scotland Branch engagement with Malawi - Pilot Twinning Initiative**

The Secretary advised the Executive Committee that no response had been received from Malawi regarding the Presiding Officer's letter. The Executive Committee agreed that no further engagement between
Members should be pursued until after the elections in Malawi in May 2009.

**CPA Scotland Branch engagement with Malawi – TAP**

The Secretary informed Executive Committee that arrangements were being made to accommodate a study visit in February by the Legal Affairs Committee to look at the Scottish system of handling Standing Orders.

The Secretary was asked to update the EERC on the Malawi relationship.

**Cross Party Outward visit to Australia and New Zealand: 2009 (CPA Paper 2008/09 (18))**

The Executive Committee noted that although more information about sitting days was available most state parliaments would sit around the same time which meant that it would be difficult to plan a logical route for the proposed visit.

Members of the Executive Committee agreed that the Secretary should explore the possibility of the main delegation starting the visit 1 week before recess. The Executive Committee suggested that the Secretary should explore the possibility of visits to Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand.

**International Parliamentary Conference: International Migration and Human Trafficking: Maximizing Benefits, Overcoming Challenges, Mon 2-Sat 7 February 2009: London**

The Secretary reported that Margaret Mitchell and Christina McKelvie had attended the Seminar however both had to return on Wednesday 4 February for Decision Time.

**Commonwealth Day 2009 (CPA Paper 2008/09 (19))**

The Executive Committee agreed with the proposals for the Commonwealth Day event. The Secretary was asked to draft a motion in readiness should the Parliamentary Bureau approve a Members Debate on the Commonwealth for 11 March 2009.

The Executive Committee also agreed that 2 researchers should be given the opportunity to attend the CPA Secretariat’s Commonwealth Day event in London. Given the short timescales the Executive
Committee agreed that on this occasion a competition would not be held. Members of the Executive Committee would identify young people from their parties. The Secretary was asked to explore the possibility of securing 4 places.

**Homecoming**

The Executive Committee were pleased that 6 Commonwealth Speakers had attended the Presiding Officer’s Burns Supper. The Secretary was asked to continue to identify opportunities to allow Scotland Branch to support the Homecoming initiative.


Noted

5. **Correspondence** (CPA PAPER 2008/09 (21))

The Executive Committee agreed that a Cross Party Delegation should attend the BIMR Conference.

The invitation to attend the Westminster Seminar was noted.

6. **Any other business**

   The Secretary was asked to explore the possibility of arranging visits to the Isle of Man and National Assembly of Wales to strengthen ties between the Branches.

7. **Dates of next meeting**

   Wednesday 15 April 2009
   Wednesday 17 June 2009