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Minutes of the Senedd Branch Annual General Meeting 4 March 2026

Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present and opened the Annual General Meeting.

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 10 December 2024.

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

2. Issues arising

No issues were raised.

3. Any urgent matters

There were no urgent matters for discussion.

4. A report by the Chairman of the Senedd Branch, Rhun ap Iorwerth MS

The Chair noted that it had been a busy and productive time for the Branch. He highlighted some notable activities over this reporting period, including the following:

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Senedd Cymru BIMR

It was noted that the undoubted highlight of this period was the BIMR Conference 2025 where, over three brilliant days in June, we welcomed over 50 CPA Parliamentarians, along with international observers, to Wales, for the British Isles and Mediterranean Regional Conference. One of the notable outcomes of this conference was the launch of the British Isles and Mediterranean LGBT+ Network at the Senedd; the first time any of the nine Commonwealth Parliamentary Association regions have done so.

The conference was a resounding success, and everyone agreed that it presented a special opportunity to showcase our Senedd, and Wales at its best.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

The Welsh Branch was represented by Rhianon Passmore MS, Natasha Asghar MS and Sioned Williams MS at the Women's Conferences in the Scotland in 2025 and, recently, by Rhianon Passmore MS and Sioned Williams MS in Northern Ireland.

Sioned Williams MS was also selected to attend a CPA workshop in the Bahamas on 'Parliamentarians as Drivers for Women's Economic Empowerment'.

Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities

The Chair noted the Branch's thanks to Mark Isherwood MS for his continued contribution as the Senedd's Champion for Parliamentarians with Disabilities, including a few weeks ago at the First Forum of Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities in our Region, hosted by the Scottish Parliament.

LGBT+ Parliamentarians

Following the launch of our Region's LGBT+ Parliamentarians Network, Adam Price MS and Hannah Blythyn MS have been active on the network's steering committee. It was good to see the first face-to-face forum taking place in Westminster recently.

Election Observation Missions

It had been a positive period for the Branch in terms of observing elections, with Alun Davies MS being part of a mission to the Cayman islands, and was then

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chosen to lead the Falklands islands election observation delegation.

These other Conferences were also noted by the Chairman.

Natasha Asghar MS and Alun Davies MS represented the Branch at the CPA's large annual Conference, in Barbados last year.

The Branch received an invitation to attend the Canadian Regional Conference. Last year, Deputy Llywydd (Presiding Officer), David Rees MS, represented the Senedd here, held by the Quebec Parliament.

Artificial Intelligence had been a notable topic in the work of the CPA and we were pleased to have the opportunity to attend last year's conference in Malaysia on Responsible Artificial Intelligence, represented by Hannah Blythyn MS and Adam Price MS.

5. Confirmation of the Revised Constitution of the Branch

The update of the Branch rules was agreed.

It was noted by the Chair that these were minor changes and reflected the way in which the Senedd Branch and the CPA now operate. They would further strengthen the governance of our work and expand opportunities for our Members – this is particularly important for the Seventh Senedd, and with a significant increase in Members and a shorter parliamentary term.

Closing

Closing the Annual General Meeting, the Chair thanked all Members who had taken an interest and participated in the work of the CPA over the past year, and indeed over the past decade during his Chairing of the Branch. The Chair thanked the Branch's secretariat and wished the next Chair and subsequent Membership of our Branch's Executive Committee well, for what will be another exciting time for us as a Senedd.

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6. In attendance:

Members of the Senate Branch

- 1 Rhun ap Iorwerth MS (Branch Chair)
- 2 Deputy Llywydd David Rees MS (Branch Vice-president)
- 3 Natasha Asghar MS (Branch Executive Committee)
- 4 Hannah Blythyn MS
- 5 Adam Price MS
- 6 Janet Finch-Saunders MS
- 7 Cefin Campbell MS
- 8 Luke Fletcher MS
- 9 Mike Hedges MS
- 10 Rhianon Passmore MS (Branch Executive Committee)

Branch Secretariat:

Manon Antoniazzi, Branch Secretary, Chief Executive and Clerk, Senedd Cymru
Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary

Observing

Gwion Evans, Private Office of the Llywydd
James Whittaker, Private Office of the Llywydd

**Secretariat of the Parliamentary Branch of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
March 2026**