



**BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING  
23 May 2023**

**Draft MINUTES**

Present

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Chair  
David Rees MS (Vice-President)  
Alun Davies MS  
Rhianon Passmore MS  
Natasha Asghar MS  
Sam Rowlands MS

Secretariat

Al Davies, Acting Branch Secretary  
Elin Sutton, Llywydd's Private Office

**Introduction & staffing news.**

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and explained that, due to a number of reasons, it had been several months longer than usual since our last meeting.

The Chair noted, for the benefit of Members who may not be aware, that Enfy Roberts had left the Senedd in March. The Branch was grateful to Enfy for her support – particularly with the CWP and Disabilities networks, over the past five years.

Elin Sutton from the Llywydd's Private Office was welcomed. Elin would be supporting with some of the Branch's CPA work, particularly with the CWP.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

Apologies were received from Delyth Jewell MS

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - Paper CPA 6S-22-03 (**DOC 1**)

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The Branch Secretariat had been asked to prepare a paper on the new CPA fees option (discussed under Item 6)

4. **REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES**

**Feedback and follow-up of recent Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences**

2022

- *BIMR CWP Steering Committee*  
*Virtual*  
*14 November*

A number of issues had been discussed, including Gender Sensitive Audits within the Region's legislatures as well as a proposals for a Regional visit to Malta in the Autumn as well as attendance at the Reykjavik Global Forum.

- *11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Parliament*  
*Trinidad and Tobago*  
*20-24 November (DOC 2)*

A report of former Welsh Youth Parliament Members Betsan Angell Roberts and Gwion Rhisiart, selected to represent the Senedd at last year's CYP in Trinidad, had been circulated. The Chair noted the

Branch's thanks to Betsan and Gwion.

## 2023

- *Visit by St Helena PAC Committee*  
*2 February*

Members of St Helena's PAC Committee had visited the Senedd as part of their wider UK visit and had undertaken a comprehensive programme with our own PAPAC Committee.

- *CPA UK Trade Workshop for Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and Devolved Legislatures. (DOC 3)*  
*Westminster*  
*7-9 February*

Alun Davies MS had participated in this programme and the Branch thanked him for his report of the workshop, which had been distributed.

- *71<sup>st</sup> Westminster Seminar*  
*13-17 March (DOC 4)*

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS (as well as a Senedd Clerk) attended this year's Westminster Seminar. Positive feedback had been received from Peredur of his experience at the Seminar.

Afternote: An official report of the Westminster Seminar was now available on the Senedd CPA Webpage.

- *BIMR Conference (hosted by CPA UK)*  
*Westminster*  
*25-27 April*

The Chair noted that he, along with the Branch Vice-President, Rhianon Passmore MS and Joyce Watson MS had attended this year's Regional Conference hosted by the UK Parliament in Westminster.

Afternote: An official report of the BIMR Conference was now available on the Senedd CPA Webpage.

- *BIMR Election Observer Mission to the British Virgin Islands  
17-26 April.*

It had unfortunately not been possible for any of the Branch Members trained in Election Observer Missions to attend this particular election in the British Virgin Islands.

There were no confirmed further EOM opportunities at this time but the Branch Secretariat would keep Members informed.

## 5. **FORWARD PLANNING**

### **Forthcoming Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences**

#### 2023

- Women Political Leaders Summit  
Brussels  
7-8 June

Our representatives on the BIMR CWP Steering Committee were advised of this opportunity to participate in the Region's delegation to the WPL Summit in Brussels.

Afternote: Rhianon Passmore MS had been selected as one of the BIMR's participants and had fed back on her experience to the BIMR CWP.

- *Visit by CPA Secretary General, Stephen Twigg  
20 June*

The Chair noted that a visit by the CPA's Secretary General to the Senedd had been confirmed and a suitable programme was being developed.

Members of the Branch Executive Committee were assured that they would be included in the programme for the Secretary General.

- *CPA UK Women in Trade Workshop*  
*Westminster*  
*20-22 June*

Despite some initial interest from Women Members of the Senedd, no concrete submissions had been presented to attend this Trade Workshop.

- *Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)*  
*Accra, Ghana*  
*30 September – 5 October*

The Chair updated Members that the Branch expected an Official Invitation to attend this year's CPC in June. As well as our usual delegate entitlement, we expected to be able to supplement this with an additional Observer place

A note to all Senedd Members inviting expressions of interest and business cases would be issued, and our delegation selected before the Summer recess.

- *BIMR CWP Visit*  
*Malta*  
*November (TBC)*

As had been noted previously, a possible CWP Visit for Members of the BIMR's Steering Committee was planned to take place in the Autumn.

## 6. **NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- CPA Membership Fee Options (**DOC 5**)

Members considered the paper on the Branch Membership options which included a new choice to pay a higher fee for an enhanced participation at the CPA's annual conferences (CPC).

Members were in agreement that the current arrangement at the lowest Membership fee, offering an entitlement for One Delegate at the annual CPC was adequate; and that the option of supplementing

our participation in CPCs with Observer suited our current purposes and provided the best value for money.

7. **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Branch ExCo Meeting - September 2023 (TBC)

**END OF BUSINESS**