



## OGBIA COMMUNITY UK & EUROPE

*Odionin Pe Ekpar*

Minutes of General Meeting — 24 May 2026

### OGBIA COMMUNITY UK & EUROPE – GENERAL MEETING AGENDA & MINUTES

Sunday, 24 May 2026 • 18:00 prompt (commenced 18:45 BST) • Zoom

|                        |                                                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date &amp; Time</b> | Sunday 24th May 2026, 18:00 prompt (commenced 18:45 BST) |
| <b>Location</b>        | Zoom                                                     |
| <b>Chair</b>           | <b>Dr Carpi Olali – President</b>                        |
| <b>Minutes by</b>      | Opudo Abila – General Secretary                          |

## 1.0 ATTENDANCE, WELCOME AND OPENING

### 1.1 Attendance

Dr Olali Carpi (President/Chair), Opudo Abila (Secretary), Dr Okelanie Aworabhi (Financial Secretary), Keziah Joseph (Welfare Secretary), Professor Bams Abila (Patron), Elder Anthony Harcourt (Patron), Enapu Owede, Timi Olali, Delphina, Victory Miduador, Azibaodjname, Lilian Afagha, Juliet Pogosa, Azibaola Ukeji, Rejoice Agip, YD Amakiri, Bomane Muzan, Ayam Jerry, Rev. Belema Alagoa, Philip Azibo-Odunsi, Ogbo Nadari, Emmanuel Marcos Obiene.

### 1.2 Welcome and introductions

The President invited members to introduce themselves: name, village or town of origin in Ogbia, and current place of residence. New members Ogbo Nadari and Emmanuel Marcos Obien were formally welcomed. The Secretary undertook to contact Emmanuel after the meeting so he can be linked to members already in or near Coventry. The Chair encouraged optimism, pride in personal achievement, and the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood.

### 1.3 Opening and closing prayer

The meeting opened in prayer by Reverend Belema. The closing prayer was later led by Dr Okelanie Aworabhi.

### 1.4 President's opening remarks

The President thanked members for attending and for selfless service. He asked the house to remain respectful in debate and to keep meetings to about two hours.

### 1.5 Approval of the minutes of 22 March 2026

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Sunday 22 March 2026 were taken as read and approved by general consensus.

## 2.0 SUMMER BARBECUE 2026 – PLANS

The physical summer barbecue remains the main bonding event of 2026, as agreed in March. This meeting fixed the practical arrangements and the member contribution.

### 2.1 Key Decisions

|                            |                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and start time</b> | <b>Saturday 25 July 2026, 2:00 pm</b>                                                                                                          |
| <b>Venue and host</b>      | Leeds – residence of the President, Dr Carpi Olali.                                                                                            |
| <b>Member contribution</b> | £15 per member (up from £10 the previous year). Payment deadline: end of June 2026.                                                            |
| <b>How to pay</b>          | Financial Secretary to post the community bank details on the WhatsApp group. Members who cannot attend are still encouraged to contribute.    |
| <b>What is planned</b>     | Traditional Ogbia dishes (including fisherman soup), Ogbia music, families welcome. Voluntary extra gifts of money, food or drink are welcome. |



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| <b>Travel and students</b>    | Secretary to circulate hotel options in Leeds. Students and others who need a lift should say so early so car-sharing can be arranged.                                   |
| <b>Fundraising on the day</b> | The barbecue will also be used as a modest fundraising moment towards the £5,000 needed for charity registration. The Executive will settle how the collection will run. |

### 2.2 Possible guest – Barrister Rex Obuku

Philip Azibo-Odunsi reported that Barrister Rex Obuku, a House of Representatives candidate and a close family relation of his, expects to be in the UK around the barbecue. After discussion with the President, the preference is that he come to Leeds for the community event rather than a separate small gathering in Coventry. He may arrive in Leeds on or about 24 July. The President and Philip will agree what, if anything, should be formally presented to him. Arrangements are to stay under the community banner.

## 3.0 LEGAL REGISTRATION AS A CHARITY

The March decision to register as a full Charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), not a Community Interest Company, was confirmed.

### 3.1 Board of Trustees

The initial Board of Trustees for the application was agreed as follows:

| Role              | Name                                                                    |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trustee           | Professor Bams Abila                                                    |
| Trustee           | Dr Carpi Olali (President)                                              |
| Trustee           | Keziah Joseph (Welfare Secretary)                                       |
| Alternate trustee | Reverend Belemo Alagoa – to stand in if a named trustee is unavailable. |

Members were reminded that trustee work is demanding at the registration stage. Availability matters.

### 3.2 Forms and legal guidance

The Executives will push the registration. The legal working group (YD Amakiri and colleagues) will supply the forms and advice on trustee duties and the income test. Amakiri will access the forms and report back by the barbecue or the next general meeting. The house noted the standard requirement of a minimum income of £5,000.

## 4.0 FINANCE

### 4.1 Position of the accounts

| Item                                 | Amount / note                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operating account                    | About £1,170                                                                                                                                 |
| Deposit account                      | About £2,844                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Combined cash at this meeting</b> | <b>About £4,014</b>                                                                                                                          |
| Charity registration threshold       | £5,000 minimum income – not yet met                                                                                                          |
| Annual dues paid in 2026 so far      | Seven members only                                                                                                                           |
| Annual membership fee                | £60 per person; £30 for students. Members may pay more. A £50 lump-sum option exists, but the house asked those who can to pay the full £60. |

The Financial Secretary will keep reminding members and will share an updated spreadsheet with the Executive group.



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### 4.2 Closing the gap to £5,000

The house debated how to raise the balance: collecting outstanding dues; extra personal donations; using the barbecue as a fundraiser; borrowing and later repaying from charity funds; and asking well-placed people in Nigeria.

#### Decisions:

- Raise the money inside the UK membership first — pay dues, give extra if able, and use the July barbecue as a collection point.
- Do not solicit funds from Nigerian political figures at this stage. Several members said it would look like begging from “London”, may come with strings, and should wait until the charity actually exists.
- Keep the idea of later appeals from home on the table once the organisation is registered.
- The question of a short-term loan into a new charity account was referred to the legal group; it was not adopted.

The President thanked the house for a serious debate.

### 5.0 MEMBERSHIP DATABASE AND REGISTRATION FORM

The Secretary explained that the community cannot currently give a reliable membership number. The inherited list includes people who have returned to Nigeria, retired or cannot be reached. Attendance changes from meeting to meeting. The Charity Commission will ask for membership strength.

Decision: a simple registration form will be issued to every person who wishes to be recorded as a member, old or new. There is no extra joining fee. Annual dues remain the financial commitment.

The form will ask for name, village of origin, status in the UK or Europe (student, settled or other) and a signature confirming commitment to meetings, dues and events. Committed members should be identifiable on the same list. Students who later leave the country can be archived.

Benefits of committed membership include welfare support on the birth of a child, support in bereavement and other life events, and access to the UK and Europe network — including being put in touch with members who already live in the same city. The house approved the proposal. The Secretary will draft and circulate the form.

### 6.0 THE OGBIA PROJECT – SEMINAR SERIES

The President introduced the Ogbia Project as the first of the 2026 seminar series agreed in March. The community mantra remains “shaping the future of Ogbia”. He used a short historical clip to illustrate community-first leadership and argued that a serious community builds inner strength before it asks outsiders for help. Members are in the UK to better their lives and to build generational wealth for their children. He asked members to take that conversation home to their children.

Ogbia’s blessings were recalled: first commercial oil find in Nigeria; a state governor; a national president; a recent Supreme Court appointment from Ogbia. Diaspora strengths: a larger UK population than a few years ago, and a highly educated membership. Weaknesses: not enough visible “can-do” spirit; competing with one another instead of with the wider market; too little trading and wealth-building. The pathway sketched was drive and direction, then leverage education, then trade so that savings grow, then economic weight. Upcoming seminar topics to be scheduled by the Executive: how to use education for community advantage; trading and wealth-building.

### 7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### 7.1 Connecting members by city

Members live across the UK, Scotland, Ireland and the rest of Europe. The database and registration form are meant to make it possible to tell a new arrival who is already in Manchester, Liverpool, Coventry or elsewhere. Regional clusters were encouraged.

#### 7.2 Adding people to the WhatsApp group

Any member may add a person; the request sits in a queue and an admin approves it. That is deliberate, to protect a group that includes many professionals. Members who cannot see the “add” option should message the Secretary privately.

#### 7.3 Meeting length

Members were asked to start at 18:00 prompt and to keep contributions tight so the meeting can finish within two hours.



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### 8.0 ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING (24 MAY 2026 ONLY)

| No. | Owner                             | Action                                                                                                                                                                                      | When                       |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | Amakri / legal group              | Access the charity registration forms and advise the Executives on requirements, trustee duties and the £5,000 income test.                                                                 | By the barbecue or next GM |
| 2   | Secretary (Opudo Abila)           | Draft and circulate the membership registration form. Send Leeds hotel information. Contact new member Emmanuel Marcos Obien and link him to members in Coventry.                           | As soon as possible        |
| 3   | Financial Secretary               | Post bank details for the £15 barbecue contribution. Remind members about outstanding annual dues. Update the spreadsheet for the Executive group.                                          | Immediately / end of June  |
| 4   | All members                       | Pay the £15 barbecue contribution by the end of June. Pay outstanding annual dues. Complete the registration form when it is issued. Tell the Secretary early if a lift to Leeds is needed. | End of June 2026           |
| 5   | President and Philip Azibo-Odunsi | Agree practical details for Barrister Rex Obuku's possible attendance at the Leeds barbecue.                                                                                                | June–July 2026             |
| 6   | Executive Council                 | Settle how the barbecue fundraising collection will be run. Fix dates and facilitators for the next Ogbia Project seminars.                                                                 | Before 25 July 2026        |

### 9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Under the 2026 calendar agreed in March, general meetings fall in May, July, September and November. The Secretary will circulate the date and Zoom link for the July General Meeting. Members are asked to join at 18:00 prompt.

The President thanked everyone for their contributions. The meeting closed with prayer.

Minutes prepared by the General Secretary for circulation to members.  
Please send any corrections to the Secretary before the next General Meeting.