



Minutes of the last General Meeting - Ogbia Community UK & Europe

Date of Meeting: Sunday, 18th May 2025

Attendees: Dr. Carpi Olali (President), Opudo Abila (Secretary), Mrs Timi Olali, Dr Enapu Owede, Keziah Joseph, Elder Anthony Harcourt, Professor Davidson Egirani, Prof. Bams Abila, YD Amakiri, Victory Miduador, Samesa, , Dr. Okelani Aworabhi, Dr. Pamela Afagha, Ami Eribo, Otis Olali

Apologies: Reverend Belema Alagoa

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from the President, acknowledging the presence of all attendees. A call was made to encourage greater participation and commitment from the wider Ogbia community to advance the organization's objectives.

2. Data Protection and Membership Information

A discussion was held regarding the collection and sharing of members' data, focusing on compliance with GDPR regulations:

- **Key Points:**
 - Basic information such as names, phone numbers, and locations can be shared among members without violating data protection laws.
 - Additional personal details (e.g., addresses, dates of birth) require explicit consent and can only be shared with permission.
 - It was proposed that a password-protected database be created to securely store and share member information, ensuring access is restricted to verified members only.
 - The Secretary was tasked with sending a correction notice to members to update their details and confirm consent for data sharing.
- **Action Items:**
 - Implement a password-protected system for the membership database.
 - Members to submit updated information and consent for data sharing by the next meeting.

3. Financial Update

The acting Financial Secretary provided an update on the community's finances:

- **Current Balances:** No key financial update as Financial Secretary resigned but key messages discussed. Acting Financial Secretary was appointed in place of Ms Keziah Jospeh (current welfare secretary).
- **Key Decisions:**



- The community's banking address will be changed to the President's home address for administrative purposes.
- Members were encouraged to make their annual contributions (£50 one-off payment or £60 in instalments) to support community activities.
- The financial year was confirmed to align with the UK government's financial year (April to April) to facilitate future tax submissions and compliance.
- **Action Items:**
 - Members to make contributions to the designated community account.
 - Financial Secretary to provide an updated financial statement at the next meeting.

4. Barbecue Event Planning

The planning for the community barbecue was discussed:

- **Details:**
 - **Date:** Saturday, 26th July 2025
 - **Location:** Northampton (central location for accessibility)
 - **Time:** 2:00 PM to approximately 9:00 PM
 - **Format:** Initially planned as a "bring and share" event, but the committee agreed on a £10 minimum contribution per member (compulsory for all members, whether attending or not) to fund centralized catering.
 - **Additional Notes:** Students are exempt from bringing food or drinks but are encouraged to contribute where possible.
- **Action Items:**
 - Members to confirm attendance and make contributions by **12th July 2025** via the Eventbrite platform.
 - The organizing committee to finalize catering arrangements and provide a list of nearby hotels for attendees requiring accommodation.

5. Charity Registration

The meeting addressed the possibility of registering Ogbia Community UK & Europe as a charity to access funding opportunities:

- **Discussion Points:**
 - Benefits include eligibility for grants (e.g., National Lottery Fund) and tax exemptions like Gift Aid.
 - Concerns were raised about the administrative burden and accountability requirements of charity status.



- It was noted that an annual financial statement is required regardless of registration status if the community's income exceeds £5,000.
- **Resolution:** The majority supported pursuing charity registration to strengthen the organization's financial base and enhance its influence.
- **Action Items:**
 - The assigned committee (led by YD Amakiri) to provide detailed recommendations and a timeline for charity registration at the next meeting.

6. End-of-Year Party

The End-of-Year Party Committee provided an update:

- **Details:**
 - **Date:** Saturday, 6th December 2025
 - **Venue:** Bingham Hall (estimated cost: £200 for 6 hours)
 - **Proposed Budget:** £6,000–£7,000
 - **Activities:** Cultural events, including dance, wrestling, and local delicacies (e.g., fisherman soup).
 - **Invitations:** Proposed dignitaries include Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Chief Samuel Ogbuku, Dr. Azibapu Eruani, Chief Maxwell Oko, Hon. Jude Rex Ogbuku, Prof. Ted Yashi, and traditional leaders. Other groups, such as the Ijaw National Congress, Calabar Group, and Ijaw Peoples Association, will also be invited.
 - **Awards:** Peace Ambassador and Performance Awards to be presented to select dignitaries.
- **Funding Strategy:** The committee emphasized the need for external donations to supplement community contributions, given the ambitious scope of the event.
- **Action Items:**
 - The committee to refine the invitee list, ensuring invitees are financially capable and eligible to travel to the UK.
 - Members to explore fundraising strategies to meet the proposed budget.

7. Constitution Update

The Secretary reported that the constitution review is ongoing:

- The document is being converted into a Word format to facilitate member input.
- A dedicated group will be formed by the next week to review and propose amendments.
- **Action Item:** The Secretary to create a constitution review group and share updates at the next general meeting.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)



- **Financial Contributions for Barbecue:** It was agreed that contributions should be paid into the community account, with the President and Secretary as signatories to ensure transparency.
- **Community Engagement:** Concerns were raised about low member participation. The Secretary urged members to be more responsive and proactive, emphasizing that the community's success depends on collective commitment.
- **Dr. Pamela's Contribution:** Dr. Pamela highlighted that some members face challenges balancing family, career, and community involvement, particularly newer members settling in the UK. She encouraged understanding and inclusivity to accommodate members at different life stages.

9. Closing

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Dr. Pamela, seeking unity, growth, and success for the community. The President thanked all attendees and encouraged continued participation to build a stronger Ogbia Community UK & Europe.

Next Steps – outstanding actions:

- Members to submit updated personal details and consent for the database by the next meeting.
- Confirm barbecue attendance and contributions by **12th July 2025**.
- The charity registration committee to present a detailed plan at the next meeting.
- The End-of-Year Party Committee to refine the invitee list and explore funding options.
- The Secretary to establish the constitution review group and share progress.