

Opening:

The meeting started at 17:30.

Agenda:

Opening Prayer

Update from the Electoral Committee

Election of New Executives

AOB

Closing

Attendees:

Prof. Bams Abila, Anthony Otokito, Dr Capi Olali, Prof. Davidson Egirani, Ms. Delphina Ikene, Mrs. Timipri Olali, Ms. Juliet Pogosia, Aziboaloo, Ms. Amiphel Cliff Eribo, Ms. Kezziah Joseph, Azibaodinami Olali, Opudo Abila, Azibanegene Lucky

Apologies: None**Matters arising:**

Minutes of previous meeting read by Mr Opudo Abila, adopted by Miss Kezziah Joseph and seconded by Mrs Timi Olali.

Mr. Otokito Opened the meeting by asking if we are now in a position to dissolve the current executives, in answering Mrs Olali Chair of the electoral committee stated that dissolution will depend on the resolution of the community after this meeting. Dr Bams suggested we immediately switch to the agenda of the meeting and inquired if the electoral committee posted their agenda on the forums. It was clarified that electoral committee posted agenda on the forums and emailed all members.

Mrs Timi Olali Chair of the electoral committee explained that the team have done a fantastic job by calling for nominations and working with a calendar-timetable. However, no indication of interest from members of the community for any of the positions. At this point, Mr Otokito thanked the Electoral Committee for a great work done and left the floor open for suggestions. Professor Davidson said it is not unusual for things like this to happen in community organisations like ours.

Mrs Timi Olali said the next stage is for all members here to start the nomination process. An objection was raised whether we have enough members here to decide the next leadership of the community and if our decision here will be binding to all. Prof Bams said anyone who nominates another person can also nominate themselves for any position, also suggested that nominees can be sent to the forum and a poll can be opened for all members to vote. Davidson stated that an agenda was sent to all members of the Ogbia community and if anyone felt that this agenda was paramount importance, they would have done one or two things: First to apologise for not being around and to accept that any decisions taken at this meeting will be binding on them. To abstain from the meeting and accept that any decision taken will be binding on them. We cannot allow people who are not in this meeting and did not send apologies to exercise their franchise. Those of us who have attend this meeting should be recognised and given the privilege to cast our votes, if we cast our vote and send the names to the general domain and any one object then that should be addressed but to say that people who have made the effort to attend the meeting should not be allowed to vote makes a mockery of the whole meeting and next time I will not attend, because the whole idea of attending this meeting is to cast my vote, I also have any things to do. So please let us get it right and conclude the voting today. Mr Lucky said he agrees with what professor Egirani has said and stated he was going to ask how many were informed of the meeting. Mr Lucky said further that if people have been informed and they did not send in apologies then they should be prepared to accept the

outcome of this meeting, be that as it may, I will agree with Professor Bams that nominees can be sent to the forum and a poll can be created for people to vote and those who are not on the WhatsApp group can be sent an email to vote. Mr Otokito confirmed that messages were sent to all the forums. Mr Azibaola apologised for being away, said it is his hope we don't hit the can down the road again because we will begin to kill the interest people have already formed in the process, it is my hope we will accomplish what we have come here for today, he said he believes there was sufficient communication, and that all nominations should be done at the same time.

Delfinah nominated Dr Olali as President, seconded by Professor Davidson.

Keziah Nominated Opudo Abila

Prof Bams suggested that Mr Otokito continues as the financial secretary and also nominate him as one of the patrons of the community, and if Mr Otokito can combine both duties. Mrs Olali said Uncle Bams, I have never disagreed with you and this will be my first time, and that she feels sorry for Mr Otokito who has done a lot, and from previous meeting we have mentioned that we will nominate him as one of the patrons, but keeping him as financial secretary is giving him more work, and it may seem as if we are not appreciating him, so it is best we leave him as patron and turn to him for advice when necessary, he has done the job for over 30 years and we should be thanking him and we are sure he will always do more than enough for us. Dr Bams said he agrees with everything Mrs Olali said and that he always been very comfortable.

Mr Opudo said on reflection he would like to rescind his initial confirmation and acceptance for the nomination as president, I think that our Daddy here Dr Olali will do a better job, he is much more experienced and more vast in issues of the community and he will lead the community in the right direction.

Mrs Delfinah nominated Mr Opudo Abila as Secretary, seconded by Prof Davidson.

Mrs Olali nominated Delfinah as financial secretary and seconded by Prof Davidson.

Mr Opudo nominated Kezia for welfare secretary seconded by Mrs Olali and Mrs Delfinah.

Mr Otokito said at this point I propose that the current executive be dissolved, this was seconded by Mr Azibaola. Following the secondment Mr Otokito said I hereby formally handover to the chair of the electoral committee Mrs Olali. Mrs Olali took over the meeting and thanked the electoral committee and stated she believes the new team will do a great job. At this point we are now at the AOB part of the meeting, if anyone has anything to say before I handover to the new President.

New Administration

Dr Olali – President

Mr Opudo Abila – Secretary

Mrs Delfinah – Financial Secretary

Miss Keziah Joseph – Welfare Secretary.

AOB:

Mr Otokito addressed issues around the accounts, giving an update with balances and encouraged members to continue to pay their annual dues. Two current accounts are available to the community. Mrs Olali encouraged everyone to spread the word about the community so that new people in the UK can join. A member called Lucky asked what the contributions were used for since there was no known project. Mr Otokito explained that the funds have been used appropriately including supporting the flood disaster and Mrs Okilo's Burial. Here in the UK there are provisions within the constitution that funds are used appropriately to support certain events by members here, the new executives will perhaps think about new projects to embark on. Mr Otokito also explained that there are mediums of communications

including two WhatsApp platforms and email distribution list. Mrs Olali at this point handed over to the President who started by thanking the community for nominating/appointing him to lead the Ogbia Community in UK and Europe. He thanked Mr Otokito for doing such a fantastic job for many years. He stated that I am usually a very precise person who focuses on specific target. It is my hope that we can work together with new agendas. The most important thing is teamwork and that he hopes the community will all work together. Secondly respect is very important. He said we should avoid anything that will cause issues amongst members. There is a need for us to have a vision and this will take into account everyone's contribution which I will align into our vision, but respect is more important. All members of the new administration have their duties and each one will focus on their job. Communication is key to this new administration.

The President outline his immediate goals: Data Base – Access of information. Scholarships that we can access via Prof Bams who mentioned in one of the meetings. Oil Community PIB – Will give details in next meeting. He suggested that the previous administration should handover all the documents to the new team. Finally he will like to thank Mr Opudo for his work so far and that he has a great job to do as we will make the community a vibrant one.

Closing

Mrs Olali gave the closing remarks and asked the Secretary to make statements. Secretary said he is looking forward to working with the President in developing new structures, new data base and digitalising the constitution. Mrs Delfinah also thanked everyone for the nomination and said she will do her best in her new role. Mrs Olali suggested to the new team that every year there should be a recurrent end of year forum where the community will meet physically, celebrate the community and encourage our families to meet each to promote our cultures. Mr Otokito called for adjournment of the meeting which was seconded by Mrs Olali.

Closing prayer was said by Mrs Olali