

Meghpur Community UK

GAAM MEMBERSHIP RULES

Last updated: September 2013

STATUS: FINAL (APPROVED BY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2013)

The following rules apply and are to form the basis for future referral. The reasoning behind such a formal setting out of these rules is to avoid misinterpretation, biased recollection and disagreements in the future. It is essential that the guidelines set out below are interpreted and followed in the spirit of unity and co-operation.

DEFINITIONS

“Community” means Meghpur Community (UK).

“Family” means any grouping within a family such as husband & wife or husband & wife plus children up to the age of 18.

“Members” means any individual irrespective of age who is a paid member of Meghpur Community (UK).

“Committee” means the elected members’ forming the main committee who jointly organise and run the affairs of Meghpur Community (UK).

1.0	GENERAL
1.1	Membership is subject to eligibility. The prime eligibility requirement is a close tie/link with the village of Meghpur in the province of Kutch, in the state of Gujarat in India.
1.2	Membership fee is for 1 year only. Membership fee for the current year (January to December) will be due at the Annual Gaam function, normally held around October.
1.3	With the exception of collection of arrears, advance multiple year’s membership is not permitted.
1.4	Membership fee is to be paid irrespective of whether or not any donation or multiple donations of any kind are received or pledged.
1.5	Residence away from home due to contract works (even if abroad) etc. does not exempt the individual from paying their membership fee.
1.6	Membership fee is to be paid irrespective of whether or not the member attends any function or any event or all the events held by the Community. Absence due to other commitments such as weddings, holidays abroad, contract work abroad, etc do not constitute exemption.
1.7	If in the judgement of the Committee there is a large surplus of funds, the committee is authorised to waive membership fee in the following year.

2.0	MEMBERSHIP FEES
2.1	Membership fee is to be paid by the head member of the family, whether male or female.
2.2	Once sons reach the age of 18, they are no longer included in their parent's membership and are required to pay a separate fee. Sons in full-time education are exempt from paying membership fees. The gaam reserves the right to request evidence of eligibility for the exemption.
2.3	Married gaam daughters are not required to pay membership fees.
2.4	Retired gaam members are not required to pay membership fees.
2.5	Where none of the above exemptions apply, the Committee reserves the right to waive membership fees for particular members under exceptional circumstances, eg. long term illness, disability, etc.
2.6	The membership fee is currently set at £ 10.00 and is subject to review as deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Committee is authorised to increase it in order to meet the foreseeable financial requirements of the Community.
2.7	Individuals (retired or otherwise) residing abroad for a continuous period of at least two years or more are exempt from paying their membership fee. These "ex-patriot" members' names will not appear in any invitations and will be treated as guests when they arrive in the UK for a short stay. Furthermore, their names will not appear in future gaam directories. (These ex-patriots are free to pay membership fees on a voluntary basis, in which case, they will be classified as any normal member and their names will appear in the gaam directory.) The emphasis is on the individual to formally inform the Committee of their exemption. Failure to notify exemption will result in the individual being treated as a normal member with membership fee due as normal.
2.8	Ex-patriots returning to the UK for permanent (or longer than 1 year) residency, are to pay their membership fee as normal. However, they are not expected to pay any 'back-dated' membership fee for the period of residence abroad.
2.9	The emphasis is on the individual to ensure that his/her membership is up to date. As a last resort, members who do not pay for three consecutive years will be invited to clear their debt immediately by way of a letter sent to their last known address. Refusal and/or non-compliance shall result in termination of their membership. A non-response will be interpreted as a refusal to pay the membership resulting in the suspension of their invitation to all functions and activities organised Meghpur Community (UK). If membership is terminated, re-admission will only be accepted after payment of last three years membership fees.

3.0	ANNUAL FUNCTION CONTRIBUTION
3.1	Annual function contribution is £ 15.00 per member and is subject to review as deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Committee is authorised to increase it in order to meet the foreseeable financial requirements of the Community.
3.2	This contribution is only payable if the member and/or their family is present on the day of the annual function.
3.3	Members who are exempt from paying membership fees are not required to pay the annual function contribution, however voluntary contributions are welcome.
4.0	CORRESPONDENCE
4.1	Invitations to the annual gaam function will be sent by post to each member and married gaam daughters. It is the responsibility of the head of the family to pass on any relevant information and extend the invitation to his/her family.
4.2	Invitations to other gaam events may be sent electronically either by email or via Facebook. This is to keep the cost of additional events as low as possible.
4.3	Any changes to contact details including change of address, telephone numbers and email address should be formally reported to the Committee, preferably by email. This is of vital importance as incorrect contact details could lead to correspondence not reaching their intended destinations. Furthermore, outdated contact details could result in incorrect entries in future editions of the gaam directory.
5.0	DONATIONS
4.1	In the interest of simplicity and to avoid any confusion, donations or part-donations are only accepted for any one given year/event; i.e. fixed monetary donations for multiple years are not permitted.
6.0	PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY
6.1	We reserve the right to take photographs/videos at any gaam event, and to place these on the gaam website and/or Facebook.
6.2	If any member wishes for any photograph or video clip to be removed, they must contact the secretary who will arrange for this to be done where the request is considered to be reasonable.

7.0	COMMITTEE SELECTION
7.1	The Committee is made up of a group of elected members, volunteering their services and spare time to Meghpur Community (UK). The Committee shall be responsible for organising and managing the affairs of the Community.
7.2	<p>The Committee shall be elected by the gaam members every 3 years at the Annual Function. The Committee shall be comprised of members aged 21 years or over and consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Former President • Secretary • Former Secretary • Treasurer • Former Treasurer • At least 4 Advisors • SKLPC Advisor <p>It is preferable that the post of President is held by a member aged 24 years or over.</p>
7.3	The key posts of President, Secretary and Treasurer are vital posts in the organisation, requiring good managerial, organisational and communication skills. A heavy responsibility rests on these three committee members to organise, promote and drive the organisation forward.
7.4	In the event of a resignation of the President, Secretary or Treasurer, the Committee shall designate/appoint a replacement from the Committee and/or reshuffle the appointments as deemed fit and proper by the Committee.
7.5	<p>The Committee shall collectively and individually ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives of Meghpur Community (UK) are carried out effectively and with diligence. • The funds and assets of Meghpur Community (UK) are properly and adequately administered and managed. • The trust and responsibility placed upon them is not abused. • Communication amongst the committee members is clear, prompt and effective.
7.6	A Committee member shall be automatically discharged from his/her post for circumstances such as gross misconduct, conviction of a serious crime, bankruptcy or mental incapacity.
7.7	<p>The objectives of Meghpur Community (UK) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the welfare and interests of its members in the UK in an atmosphere of mutual respect, equality, unity and integrity.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The advancement of Social, Cultural and Educational activities amongst its members, young and old alike.• To take part in or assist in any activity deemed beneficial or appropriate, organised by other organisations (voluntary or statutory), the purpose of which include the interests of the members of the Community.• Subject to these rules, all paid-up members shall have equal rights of representation and participation in the affairs of the Community. |
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