



## ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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### Minutes of General Assembly of 21 November 2017

Members present 59

#### Opening Remarks

The General Assembly was the second of the main meetings to be held in the Centro Social in 2017. The first meeting, the Annual General Meeting (AGM), had been held 28 March. This meeting had focused on a review of achievements in 2016, the Association's finances and the election of officers. This General Assembly was more about the exchange of information. The Mayor, José Chulvi, supported by Councillor Doris Courcelles, addressed the meeting first and gave an update on matters of local interest to all citizens.

#### Town Hall Update

The threat of fires causing widespread damage was not confined to Jávea. Changes to weather patterns and land usage had helped contribute to the problem. The Town Hall, along with a team of consultants, Medi XXI, was working with landowners and other interested parties to help scope and then reduce the problem. Emergency evacuation plans were being devised, and all residents and rental agencies were being advised of the actions to take in case of fire. The Mayor, in his new role as Secretary to his political party, PSOE, in the Alicante province, was also now in a better position to discuss issues and liaise with other mayors in the area.

As previously advised at the AGM, the Mayor, in his capacity as the Councillor for Tourism, had made sustainability a key part of his planning for tourism to the area in the future. He

had also recently changed the strategy of promotion to one of protection. For example, motor boats were now banned from certain areas such as Granadella Bay in an effort to protect the marine habitat. Ways to conserve essential resources, such as water, were also being considered. However, and as always, there was a difficult balance to make between protection and helping the local economy expand.

The last General Plan for Jávea had been produced almost 30 years ago. A new one had so far taken 11 years to develop. It was now still awaiting approval by the regional government. As with tourism, a main focus had been protection of the environment. The new General Plan was looking to make some 7.5 million sq mtrs of land, previously available for building, unavailable. This was despite a predicted increase in the population to 36K. Those new apartments being built in the Arenal area had unfortunately been granted licences many years ago under the 1991 Plan and their construction could not have been prevented.

The security of citizens and visitors continued to be a high priority. The Local Police, in partnership with other security authorities, had been working to help make it more difficult to commit acts of violence and terrorism as had been seen in other parts of Europe.

The Mediation Officer within the Local Police force had been busy. For those not aware, this was a service designed to resolve, through dialogue, conflicts between neighbours without having to resort to official complaints. The Mediation Officer, Juan Luis, can be contacted in his office Monday and Tuesday afternoons between 7 and 8pm, or Wednesday to Friday mornings between 9 and 10am. The contact number is 682 083 314.

Construction of the new 525-seat auditorium would start soon. It would be located by the Centro Social. The aim was to provide a location for theatre productions, concerts, etc, on a larger scale than at present. Plans to renovate the old cinema in the town as a theatre had come to naught. The building was too small, had poor audience visibility and bad acoustics. A citizen debate on this building's future use would soon be opened.

Members would be aware of the plan by the Diputación de Alicante to introduce a series of eight roundabouts on the Carretera de Jesús Pobre. The Town Hall had studied the proposals and, in its view, just two roundabouts would be sufficient to make the road safer while, at the same time, allowing ambulances to proceed quickly. It was also important not to cause disruption for residents who lived by the road. The outcome of the Town's counter proposal was still awaited.

In response to a question about noise in residential areas at night, the Mayor advised that, unless a music/entertainment licence had been granted, citizens should expect residential areas to be quiet after midnight. Indeed, even if a licence had been granted, then this would be until 2am only. If residents had a complaint to make about noise, they should call the police who would respond. [Reminder: the Guardia Civil can be contacted on 062 or 96 579 1085, or the Local Police on 092 or 96 579 0081. The Emergency number is 112.]

The Mayor had been made aware of problems in the adoption of new houses in advance of this General Assembly. Members provided more specifics about the problems during the meeting. Doris took details of the individuals involved with a view to finding out more about the issues and then resolving them.

## **Financial Update**

There were no major issues to report on the APMJ's finances for 2017. Income and expenses were as predicted earlier in the year. Expenditure on signs (Fire Prevention and NHW/WhatsApp) were higher than had been budgeted, but this was of no concern as finances were healthy. Sabadell bank had agreed to reduce its charges. As always, a full financial report would be presented at the AGM in March 2018.

The Town Hall did not have sufficient finances to tackle major issues such as Fire Prevention. We might therefore need to use a considerable amount of Association funds to help clear the major problem areas in our part of Jávea. The President therefore advised that the proposed donations to charity had been put on hold for the moment until the problems, and in particular the associated costs, could be scoped in greater detail.

## **Fire Prevention Project Update**

Considerable progress had been made on the Fire Prevention Project. A total of 33 problem areas had been identified by APMJ members across the Montgó/Valls area and a consolidated list of them presented to the Mayor and his staff. Meetings had also been held, and would continue to be held, with the Town Hall, Medi XXI, the Local Police and ISVH Bomberos [Jávea's volunteer fire-fighters] to discuss the issues and establish a way ahead. A full update on this crucial Project would be provided at a future meeting and work would continue throughout the coming year and beyond.

## **NHW Update**

The Police had reported a reduction in the number of burglaries and suspicious incidents over the past year. Indeed, only seven incidents had been reported via the NHW reporting system in 2017. However, and disappointingly, a number of actual burglaries were not being reported to the authorities which, in turn, had perhaps led to an overly-optimistic view of the problem being taken. All APMJ members were encouraged to report any suspicious incidents to the NHW Coordinator and all actual burglaries to either the Guardia Civil or Local Police. Members who rented out their house to visitors, or who let family and friends use their properties, were asked to advise such visitors appropriately.

The newly-instituted group on WhatsApp, used to convey NHW information rapidly to recipients, had proved to be very successful. Members wishing to be added to the group should contact Gillian Ashworth, noting that the system was to be used for reporting suspicious incidents only.... and not used as a chat site or a way of finding out information that could be obtained from multiple other sources!

## **Social Events/Future Meetings**

Following the two successful Ghost Walks earlier in the year, Chris Michel, the Social Secretary, was looking to arrange a guided 'gourmet walk' of the old Town early in 2018. He was also looking at a suitable date to hold the next APMJ lunch. More details would be provided in due course.

The next Montgó Morning would be held on Tuesday 5 December. This would be Andrew's last meeting as President.

The APMJ Annual General Meeting would be in March 2018. Further details and timings would be advised nearer the time.

### **Any Other Business**

The project to install fibre optic cable to the Montgó/Valls area had ground to a halt, having reached as far as Tiffany's Bar and no further. The money allocated to the project by central government had all been spent and there was very little likelihood of any more being provided. Residents in this part of the town would therefore continue to remain frustrated (bewildered?) at the lack of progress; rely on carrier pigeons, semaphore, etc, to communicate with people lucky enough to live in the First World; and be the laughing stock of technologically advanced nations such as Yemen, Haiti, Afghanistan, etc.

### **Closing Remarks**

As well as being a record of the Meeting, the General Assembly Minutes would also serve as another way of informing Members about matters of interest. They should be read along with the regular Newsletters, the latest of which were produced in August and September 2017. These Newsletters, as well as minutes of previous Meetings, can be found on our highly informative and regularly updated website at [www.montgoresidents.com](http://www.montgoresidents.com)

**President**  
Andrew Simmonds

**Secretary**  
Barbara Walters