



## ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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## Minutes of the General Assembly of 25 October 2016

Members present 55

### Opening Remarks

The General Assembly was the second of the main meetings to be held in the Centro Social in 2016. The first meeting, the Annual General Meeting, had been held in March. This meeting had focused on the finances and the election of officers as required under the APMJ's constitution. The General Assembly was more about the exchange of information. As usual, the Mayor, José Chulvi, had been invited to address the meeting first, but had been called away at the last moment to a meeting of the regional government in Valencia. He sent his apologies. Councillor Doris Courcelles gave the meeting an update on local matters instead.

### 1. Town Hall Update

Doris told the meeting about several new developments planned for 2017. Funds for the long-awaited swimming pool for the town would be set aside in the 2017 budget. Work on a new concert auditorium with seating for some 500 people was also scheduled to start soon. Plans were also being developed for a new road layout/parking and boardwalk along the Montañar beach (the long, rocky beach between the port area and the Arenal beach).

The British Consul for Alicante, Mrs Sarah Jane Morris, would be visiting Jávea on 3 November to talk about BREXIT, a topic of keen interest for the many British citizens living in Spain. Although it was highly unlikely that much further information would be forthcoming, the British Consul was keen to hear about people's concerns. Likewise, the Mayor would be attending the meeting as he, too, was highly concerned about the possible negative consequences for the British residents in Jávea and had vowed to do all he could to help.

The recent fires were, of course, the biggest news and provoked much discussion. Work was now in hand to address the many issues surrounding the fires. Meetings had been arranged with the regional government planning authorities and other specialists. The specific focus was on risk management, protection work, evacuation plans, escape routes and emergency response. The

APMJ planned to be part of this work, not least as it had already carried out a lot of work on fire prevention and being part of the planning process would be in our own interests.

A question was asked whether the fire in the Ramblas area had been started deliberately and why it had been allowed to burn for many days without being extinguished. The fire had been wholly within the premises of a business that processed garden waste. The piles of composted waste had built up over a period of time as the product had not been selling very well. The fire had started without human intervention. Once started, the fire could not be put out with water or other fire retardants and had therefore been allowed to burn itself out.

The issue as to whether BBQs were now permitted was discussed. Covered BBQs or those surrounded by protective walls were permitted. The rest were considered a major hazard and continued to be banned. The biggest problem with open BBQs was their use by holidaymakers. More work needed to be done to encourage the letting agents, as well as private individuals letting their villas legally, to advise visitors on the risks. However, it was acknowledged that this was an uphill battle. All the same, the APMJ would try and publicise the risks on its website. As for bonfires, these were not allowed within private gardens at any time although farmers could apply for a licence to burn plant waste in a controlled environment.

Looking at fire prevention itself, the APMJ was continuing its work to identify overgrown plots and place Denuncias against the owners in order that the land could be cleared. There were already many pockets of success along the Montgó but more needed to be done. The volunteer fire brigade in Jávea (ISVH Bomberos de Balcón al Mar) had advised that the clearance of piles of garden rubbish could be the major contributor in the prevention of future fires. The firemen had also suggested that the spread of fire could be reduced if trees (pine trees especially) could have their branches removed up to a height of 3-4 metres. On the subject of the volunteer firemen, it was noted that while the Civil Protection unit in the town received funding from the Town Hall, the firemen did not!

More signage was also needed to warn people of the dangers of fire. The APMJ had been successful in getting the provincial government to improve the quality and number of speed limit signs along the Carretera de Jesús Pobre. Similar action was now required on signage about fires to try and warn people about taking more care, not least to try and help reduce the number of cigarette ends thrown out of moving vehicles or left in forested areas.

Greater use of social media should also be considered to warn people of the dangers and advise the actions needed to be taken if/when the next incident happened.

The last point raised was the issue of fibre optic cables and the extent to which they would be installed across the Montgó area. A number of different answers were available depending on who was asked the question. Better answers would be sought and the membership advised of the outcome.

All points arising from the above would be progressed through the APMJ Committee's Action Plan.

## **2. Presentation by Christine Betterton-Jones**

Christine Betterton-Jones, who is responsible for the informative Agenda 21 website (<http://agenda21-xabia.wikidot.com/>), gave a fascinating and humorous talk about citizen participation in planning for the sustainable future of Jávea. The talk covered the many changes of direction over the years, not least because of the ever-changing committee structure and participants, the use of many different consultants and, of course, the changing politics in the town itself. She went on to explain now that planning for the future was being taken more seriously there were many opportunities for interested citizens to get more involved.

Christine also spoke about the project to provide information in English and French for the exhibits in the town museum. Work would now start on signs in the German language. Anybody who wished to

volunteer their help in either this project or in the wider project of town planning should contact Christine direct at [christine.bettertonjones@gmail.com](mailto:christine.bettertonjones@gmail.com)

### **3. Donations to Charity**

The APMJ was making a number of donations to various charities in the town. A cheque for €500 had been presented to Social Services in the town to help pay for school text books for those in most need. A cheque for €1000 had also been presented to the volunteer fireman in Jávea to help them replace equipment lost during the fires. This donation was part of a wider campaign across the whole of the town to obtain much-needed funds. A discussion would be held another day to see if and how we could help the firemen in future years.

A final donation this year would be made to APASA, the dog rescue centre in Jávea. Mrs Mandy Conway, the head of APASA, would be coming to the next Montgó Morning on 1 November to talk about the work of APASA and to receive a cheque for €500.

### **4. Closing Remarks**

In closing the meeting the President thanked the members for their support and looked forward to meeting people at the next Montgó Morning. First though, a lunch was being held at Le Gourmand Restaurant immediately following this meeting. Tim Fawle was thanked for stepping forward and volunteering to organise this lunch.

**The APMJ Annual General Meeting will be held in March 2017. The actual date will be confirmed later.**

**President**  
Andrew Simmonds

**Secretary**  
Barbara Walters

**Countersigned**  
Gillian Ashworth