



## ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

Apartado 592, Jávea, (Alicante)  
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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 March 2016

Members present 37, new members 0, non-members 4

#### Opening

The meeting came to order at 10.40am and Andrew, the President, welcomed all the members present. He explained that the AGM was a requirement of the APMJ's Constitution and would focus on the finances and the election of officers, as well as looking at previous and future activities. Also in attendance for the first part of the AGM was Mayor José Chulvi, supported by Councillor Doris Courcelles.

#### 1. Town Hall Update by Mayor José Chulvi

The Mayor remarked that we were all part of a community of Xabieros wherever we were born and, as such, he and his Team treated everybody equally. His first item of news (which was greeted with supportive cheers) was that steps had been taken against animal cruelty in the Town, most notably the banning of bulls running in the streets with fire on their horns (toros embolados). He went on to explain that not only was it important for the safety of all involved, it was important that today's children grew up appreciating the right way to treat animals. [Note: More information about this, and the subsequent protests, can be found at <http://www.javeamigos.com/news/2016/04/1904-01.htm>]

On the subject of citizens' safety, the Mayor advised that a Special Tasks Unit (UCE) had been established within Jávea's Local Police force. The Unit's main functions were to protect citizens in the urbanizations as well as look after environmental issues in agricultural zones and coastal areas. The Unit, comprising five officers, would have more flexible shifts to fit operational needs. The attendance of the Chief of Local Police and the commander of the Guardia Civil in Jávea to a recent meeting of all Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) coordinators and members in the area was further evidence of the importance the Town Hall placed on the protection of residents.

In another 'quality of life' improvement, the Mayor advised that the provision of health care in the Town during the summer months would be increased in order to help cope with the influx of visitors. A new centre would open for this purpose.

The plague of Tiger Mosquitoes was likely to continue this year. The Mayor had asked for a budget from the provincial government to help fight this plague. However, the Town Hall could not do it alone and needed other authorities and householders to heed previously given advice to help reduce the problem. [Advice on dealing with the problem may be found on the APMJ website at <http://www.montgoresidents.com/en/useful-information> as well as on other local sites.]

At the regional level of government, the recent change in leadership had helped give Jávea the attention it deserves. The President of the Generalidad Valenciana, Snr Puig, had recently visited Jávea for the opening of the new Town Hall offices. He had declared his support for a number of issues, including a much-needed swimming pool for the Town.

Returning to the subject of the treatment of animals, the Town Hall was conducting a campaign to help improve care for pets. A comprehensive booklet on pet care was being prepared and local vets had been encouraged to lend their support for the chipping of more dogs.

The Mayor then took questions from the audience.

- Question: A letter from the APMJ to the Diputacion de Alicante last year about speed limits on the Carretera Jesús Pobre had failed to deliver any results. Would it be possible for the Town Hall to work with the Guardia Civil to agree a suitable speed limit for this road and for the Mayor to then use his personal influence with the Diputacion to provide better signage/road markings? Maybe a petition from us could help highlight the problems? There were very few major roads into Jávea and it was important that not only were they safe, but that they also made a good impression to visitors that the Town was serious about maintaining standards.
- Answer: The Mayor agreed that a petition would be a good way forward and that he would try his best to get things changed.
- Question: Was there a problem in the Planning Department of the Town Hall? It all seemed to be running very slowly.
- Answer: The Mayor agreed that there were a few issues that needed resolution but that he and his staff were working away at improvements to the system.

On behalf of all those present, Andrew thanked José Chulvi and Doris Courcelles for their continuing efforts to improve things for all of Jávea's inhabitants and for coming along to our meeting to inform us what was happening.

## **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The previous Annual General Meeting had been held 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The proposal to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Gillian Ashworth and seconded by Ann Hambrook. Carried unanimously.

## **3. President's Report on 2015**

The first thing to note was that, presently, we had 267 members, some of whom had actually paid their membership fees for 2016. This level of membership was consistent with previous years.

Actual progress over the previous year had been a mixed bag. On the positive side, we had maintained our excellent links and two-way flow of information with Mayor Chulvi, the Councillors and Town Hall Staff. Likewise, we had forged a good relationship with the Local Police. Andrew had also recently visited the Guardia Civil barracks in Jávea to meet the Commander and talk about security issues in the area. In the view of the President, his 'softly softly' approach – as opposed to a 'banging fists on the table' approach – had actually helped lead to visible improvements. For example, the number of Local Police/Guardia Civil patrols on the Montgó had increased and he encouraged members to stop the patrol cars now and again to talk to the officers and perhaps even say "Thank you".

We had continued to pass on information in many ways. Minutes of our two major meetings each year, as well as regular newsletters and emails, were full of information. That said, they were often too long and thus caused problems with getting them translated quickly, if at all. As always, getting the balance right was difficult. Andrew, as well as many of the Committee members, continued to receive emails and telephone calls on a variety of topics. Best efforts were always made to answer these queries quickly, even if it was just a holding reply. As for the APMJ website, this was a good source of information, not only about Association matters, but also on a wide range of topics affecting us all.

NHW had been busy in recent months. Sandra Benson, the NHW coordinator for the Montgó area, continued to send out timely information to us all, as well as pass on our 'intelligence' to the appropriate authorities. At the recent Jávea-wide NHW meeting, both police chiefs had confirmed that they always appreciated our input, not forgetting that if vehicles were involved then the most important bit of information was the registration number.

On the other hand, where we were not so good was sorting out the many problems affecting our area: fire prevention, road signs, building noise, barking dogs, street lighting, the use of roadside woods as toilets by workmen, etc, etc. Half of the problem was that some were simply unsolvable, whereas others required money that the local authorities did not have. The President also admitted that, because of other commitments, he was unable to tackle all the problems by himself and that he was desperate for people to step forward and volunteer to take on some of the environmental issues.

More importantly, we were a pretty sociable group of people. The monthly Montgó Mornings gave us the opportunity to talk to each other, to welcome new members and to appreciate that we were not alone with some of our problems. Likewise, these events were increasingly becoming a way of informing members about many facets of living in Spain in general and in Jávea in particular. A number of guest speakers had come to our Montgó Mornings over the past year and had spoken to us on issues ranging from the ins and outs of house and contents insurance, how to better protect homes and possessions, and funeral planning. Guest speakers on a variety of topics would continue to be invited over the coming year. These would be announced closer to each event.

#### **4. Financial Report**

The Financial Report would focus on two aspects: looking back and looking forward.

The APMJ's accounts were required to be audited once a year ready for the AGM. One of our members, Mike Granville, was a professional at such tasks and his advice was always heeded and implemented. One aspect we had sought advice on recently was our assets. Members might recall that at the end of 2014 we had bought a new bank of mailboxes (buzones) but had not sold any of them by the end of the year. They were therefore an asset and should have been treated as such in the balance sheet for that year. The revised accounts for 2014 now therefore showed an asset of €2880. A full statement from the auditor on this matter is attached to these minutes for completeness (Attachment 1), as is a statement on the way in which the Association accounts for membership fees each year. A revised end-of-year balance sheet for 2014 is available to any member who requests such information, noting that the cash/bank amounts had not changed.

The income and expenditure figures for 2015 are shown on Attachment 2. The end-of-year totals were bank balance €9180, cash €611 and assets of €1840 giving an overall total of €11631.

Looking to the future, expenditure was predicted to match an estimated income of €5440 (if all remaining mailboxes were sold). The key items of predicted expenditure were Meetings (€1600), Representation (€1200), Insurance (€220), Website (€440), Translations (€200), Signs (€500) and Stationery/Sundries (€280) with the balance (€1000) being set aside for contingencies.

Nonetheless, the Association would undoubtedly end the year with a surplus. The current surplus was already large, amounting to some €10K. Ideas were therefore sought as to how to use the

money wisely. Amongst the ideas put forward were road maps placed at key areas, the funding of mirrors opposite blind or difficult road junctions and improved road and/or fire prevention signage. Donations could also perhaps be made to local organisations that directly benefited or could benefit members, such as the volunteer fire brigade in Jávea. No decisions would be made just yet and members were asked to continue to come forward with ideas.

## **5. Election of Officers**

The full list of proposed Officers and Committee Members for 2016 was:

- President – Andrew Simmonds
- Secretary – Barbara Walters
- Treasurer – Tom Hay
- Membership – Ann Hambrook
- Website – Gillian Ashworth
- Buzones – Hans Sleutjes
- NHW – Sandra Benson
- Member – Anny Koenen de Bie
- Ex Officio Member – Sally Skelton

Sandra Fawle proposed the Officers and Committee Members as detailed above; this was seconded by Tony Clarke. Carried unanimously.

Andrew confirmed that this would definitely be his last year as President and that he would be delighted if somebody volunteered soon to become Vice President with a view to taking over as President after the next AGM. Anybody interested in doing so was asked to contact Andrew to discuss the matter.

## **6. Representation/Help for Members**

As many members were aware, Sally Skelton continued to provide help to many people when dealing with local authorities and utility providers. The main areas of focus were with planning and Catastral issues. The APMJ had continued to pay Sally €100 a month for these services and she had always refused further payment from the individuals concerned whenever it had been offered. There was concern, however, that many of these issues took multiple visits and/or 'phone calls to resolve and it seemed unfair on Sally that she should act, effectively, as a gestoría without adequate compensation. Andrew therefore proposed that the APMJ fee would cover the first consultation and/or visit only, and after that Sally should charge individuals an appropriate amount for further help. There were no objections to this proposal which would take place with immediate effect.

## **7. Social Events/Future Meetings**

The next Montgó Morning would be held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Le Gourmand Restaurant. Although an experiment had been carried out by holding such Mornings on different days in the week, a show of hands at each meeting had indicated that very few, if any, were there who could not make it on a Tuesday. We would therefore continue to focus on Tuesdays.

A visit to the Albarda ornamental gardens in La Xara would be arranged for April and advertised by email. A date, maybe in late May, would also be set for a visit to the water desalination plant in Jávea.

A date and location for the Christmas Lunch in early December would be considered soon so that members could make a note of it in their diaries and hopefully avoid clashes with other events at that time of year.

## **8. Any Other Business**

A question was asked whether Jávea would soon be receiving fibre optic cables for telecommunications. It would seem that the conduits for such cables were being installed in parts of the Town, but that any future connection to a modern communication system would be reserved for schools, emergency services and the like. Meanwhile, on the Montgó, we would continue to rely on men running around with messages on the end of sticks, wind-up telephones and pigeons.

## **9. 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.

**Meeting adjourned at 1150 hrs.**

**The next General Assembly will be held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**The next AGM will be in March 2017 (with the actual date to be announced later in 2016).**

### **President**

Andrew Simmonds

### **Secretary**

Barbara Walters

Attachments:

1. Auditor's Statement Regarding 2014 Accounts.
2. Income and Expenditure for 2015.

## **AUDITOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING 2014 ACCOUNTS**

“There was an error of presentation in the 2014 accounts.

In 2014, the Association paid €2891 for mailboxes but hadn't sold any of them to members by the end of the year. But of course, the Association had the mailboxes, they were an asset, and they should have been treated as an asset in the balance sheet, as was done in previous years. The attached revised accounts show an asset of €2880, the value the Association was able to sell them for. You made a loss of €11 on the whole transaction.

Further, for many years the accounts have shown membership fees paid in advance as a liability. For example, the 2014 accounts showed 2015 membership fees paid in 2014 of €340. I understand that the Committee prefers to show all money received in a given year as membership fees, and the 2015 accounts use this approach. I understand that other groups on the Costa Blanca do account for membership fees in this way. As a result, I recommend that in future the Treasurer and Membership Secretary formally reconcile their records”

Mike Granville  
Auditor

## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2015**

Income            €4830

- Membership Fees            €3755
- Sundry Income                €35
- Mailbox Sales (13)           €1040

Expenditure    €3551

- Meetings                      €1316
- Representation               €1200
- Insurance                      €212
- Signs                            €150
- Website                        €420
- Stationery/Sundries         €253