



## ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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## Minutes of the General Assembly of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Members present 43

### Opening

The President welcomed all those present and explained that the APMJ normally held two major meetings each year: the formal Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, at which the finances were approved, the Association's officers and committee members elected, and plans for the future discussed; and the less formal General Assembly in October which was more about an exchange of information and ideas. This General Assembly was the first opportunity our Mayor, José Chulvi, had had to address the APMJ since the local elections held earlier in the year. The Mayor was accompanied by Councillor Doris Courcelles, who, *inter alia*, was responsible for liaison with the various urbanisations across Jávea.

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

The Mayor started by thanking the APMJ for its support and praised the way in which it had worked in a collaborative way with the Town's Councillors to help solve a wide range of issues. He hoped it would continue. He went on to describe his vision for Jávea over the next few years. Whatever happened, people – wherever they came from originally – were at the heart of everything the Town Hall did, whether it was creating new employment opportunities, helping the vulnerable, or holding workshops for new companies. He noted that the Help Desk in the Town Hall had been expanded to better deal with residents' queries. As far as tourists were concerned, quality was more important than quantity when it came to the provision of facilities for them to enjoy. Turning to specifics, he gave a clear indication that the long-promised, and much-needed, public swimming pool would be built before too long.

Luckily, Jávea had not suffered any major fires during 2015. As part of the preparation for any future outbreak, better coordination protocols been agreed between the various emergency response agencies. Jávea had also worked with other municipalities in the area to help suppress the spread of any fire in the first place. As part of that fire prevention programme, owners of private plots had been, and continued to be, encouraged to clear their land of overgrown foliage and garden rubbish. It was

noted that the APMJ had contributed enormously to the programme by identifying problem areas across the Montgó and reporting them to the appropriate authorities. Lastly, the Mayor cautioned people against entering somebody else's property without their permission in order to clear overgrowth or garden rubbish.

The Mayor accepted that the plague of Tiger Mosquitoes affecting a number of areas in Jávea was a difficult issue to solve and was a problem vexing many towns in the region. The use of blanket spraying from the air had been ruled out on the grounds that it would affect other, and more welcome, insects as well as birds and animals. Not only that, it would be a short-term solution. For the moment, he re-iterated the advice previously given to APMJ members on how to reduce the likelihood of mosquitoes breeding, such as emptying water-filled plant saucers, wearing suitable clothing, and so on.

Before opening the floor to questions, the Mayor made the point that Jávea was one of the safest coastal towns in Spain. This was mainly a result of the efforts of the Local Police and the Guardia Civil, in association with citizens across the Town and outlying areas. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that there was still some room for improvement in communications.

Among the concerns and questions raised from the floor, was one about stagnant swimming pools in unattended properties and how they could become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The Mayor confirmed that, once such pools had been brought to the attention of the authorities, if the owners could not be found and obliged to deal with the problem, then the Town Hall would try and dump sufficient chlorine in the water to help clear the pool.

A lot of plastic bottles had been left behind on a number of roads in the Montgó/Valls areas after the Jávea-Jesús Pobre 10Km Road Race earlier in October. The Mayor assured the audience that this would be dealt with in future years. As for litter along the Carretera Jesús Pobre itself, the meeting was advised that its collection was the responsibility of the provincial government, which often failed in its task. Following a suggestion from the floor that residents could organise volunteer litter parties to help clear rubbish from the side of local roads, while not totally discouraging it he warned about the safety aspects of doing so. Andrew would discuss this further with Doris Courcelles at their next meeting.

When asked about the latest situation regarding the proposal to build a number of Residential Homes in the Huertos del Montgó, he said that it was almost certainly likely to be turned down on technical grounds and that the area would stay 'green' for the moment.

Finally, in response to a plea to do something about the nuisance caused by unattended barking dogs following the complete failure of previous actions to solve the problem, the Mayor agreed to look again at the issue. (Note: The recent Costa Life supplement to the Costa Blanca News suggests contacting the SEPRONA unit of the Guardia Civil. SEPRONA is a Spanish environmental protection agency and can be contacted via email at [seprona@guardiacivil.org](mailto:seprona@guardiacivil.org) or by 'phone on 900 101 062. Any log of the times and dates of the barking nuisance over a period of time will help add weight to the complaint.)

On behalf of all those present, the President thanked José Chulvi and Doris Courcelles for their attendance and contribution.

## **2. Presentation by Parque Natural del Montgó**

As part of its work on its own fire prevention project, the APMJ had been working with the staff of the Denia office of the Parque Natural del Montgó. It had become clear that the office covered a wide range of tasks. Accordingly, the staff had been invited to address this meeting on one aspect of their work: the control of Invasive Species.

In a fascinating presentation, illustrated with numerous slides, it was explained that numerous plants and aquatic animals, such as certain agaves and turtles, been introduced to the area, but had pushed

out indigenous species in the countryside, on waterways, sand dunes and so on. The Tiger Mosquitoes were a good example of the problems caused by these often inadvertent, but sometimes deliberate, actions. Examples of some of the species causing problems would be loaded onto the APMJ website in due course. Members of other societies should note that the Parque Natural del Montgó staff were always happy to make their presentation to other organisations if asked.

### **3. Fire Prevention Update**

A number of problem areas had been identified and reported to the appropriate authorities. Firstly, a number of private plots had been identified by members as needing clearing. These, which included plots in Calle Caceres, Cami dels Castellans, Carrer Serra d'En Canes, Carrer Pic de la Batalla, Calle Islandia and five other locations, had been reported to the Town Hall for its consideration and further action against the owners. Following an extensive survey, a request had been submitted to the provincial government requesting its help to clear a number of areas in the Montgó Natural Park bordering the built-up area, such as in Calle de Cancer and Calle Centauro.

A survey to determine the location of overgrown barrancos along the mountainside had also just been completed. The Town Hall's help would now be sought to make contact with the authority responsible for the barrancos, the Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar.

A further request for information about overgrown plots would be made in 2016 once progress had been made on the current group.

### **4. Financial Update**

The finances for 2015 were on track. A detailed report would be made at the AGM in March 2016.

As for membership levels, there were currently some 300 households listed as members. None the less, to date, fewer than 200 had paid their subscriptions for 2015. A letter would be prepared for sending to those who had not paid asking them to either pay in cash or by bank transfer as soon as possible. If they no longer wished to remain a member, then they would be asked to let the Membership Secretary know so that their details could be removed from the APMJ records as well as the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) warnings list.

### **5. NHW Update**

There had not been too many reported incidents along the Montgó recently, although reports were still being received from the wider area. A more comprehensive NHW update would be provided at the next Montgó Morning.

### **6. Buzones Update**

There were still a number of buzones for sale. Anybody who wished to buy one should contact the Secretary, Barbara Walters, on [montgo.residents@googlemail.com](mailto:montgo.residents@googlemail.com) in the first instance, noting that the one-off purchase price was €80. Another Committee member, Hans Sleutjes, would then take care of the paperwork and hand over the keys.

The problem with mail deliveries over the summer period had been explained to members by an email from Andrew earlier in October. However, it should be noted that this was not a problem solely within Javea; similar delays had been experienced across Spain. Members were reminded to ensure that their buzón number was being used by anybody sending them correspondence, as this would help the substitute postal staff to deliver the mail to the right box.

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

Although Montgó Mornings were normally held on the first Tuesday of each month, following a request from a number of members to vary the day occasionally so as to give them chance to attend, the November one would be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1100 hours at Le Gourmand restaurant. The next Montgó Morning would be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, also at Le Gourmand. As for future Montgó Mornings, the Committee was considering whether to hold one now and again in a differing venue.

The APMJ Christmas Lunch would be held in El Gaucho Restaurant on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A calling note would be sent in the next week or so. The cost would be €20 a head.

## **8. Volunteers for Committee Posts**

Andrew informed the meeting that he had been in post for some 18 months and was more than happy to continue for a while longer. However, he planned to step down in mid-2017 and asked that anybody interested in taking on the role should make themselves known with a view to them taking on the position of Vice President in 2016, and then moving on to become President in 2017. Not only would this ease the handover, the Vice President could host the Montgó Mornings on the few occasions when Andrew was not able to get there.

## **9. Any Other Business**

In response to a question whether anything could be done about the noise by building works in the summer months, Andrew advised that local laws were in place to ensure a quiet period during 'siesta' time, but that the Town Hall would not stop all building work as it created employment opportunities. That said, all non-urgent public works stopped for the month of August each year.

As for an update on the so-called 'Land Grab' in the Valencia region, Andrew advised that he would try and find out the latest news and inform members another day.

## **10. Closing Remarks**

In closing the meeting the President thanked the members for their support. Special thanks were given to Gillian Ashworth who had volunteered to stand in as Secretary to the meeting in the absence of Barbara Walters.

Members were also reminded to check the APMJ website (<http://www.montgoresidents.com>) regularly for updates, news and local information.

**President**  
Andrew Simmonds

**Secretary**  
Barbara Walters

**Countersigned**  
Gillian Ashworth