



ASOCIACIÓN PROPIETARIOS MONTGÓ JÁVEA

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 28 March 2017

Members present 31

Opening Remarks

The Annual General Meeting would focus on the finances and the election of officers as required under the APMJ's constitution and by the Sabadell Bank for financial signatory purposes. The AGM would also look at previous and future activities, as well as attend to any other relevant business. The Mayor, José Chulvi, had been invited to address the meeting first, but was unable to attend owing to an urgent family matter that required his attention. He had sent his apologies. Councillor Doris Courcelles gave the meeting an update on local matters instead.

1. Town Hall Update

Doris told the meeting that the Town Hall had been working on ways to improve the living conditions of all the town's citizens, one of the most important items being the commissioning of works to protect all outlying residential areas against forest fires. To do this, the Town Hall had engaged some consultants with appropriate expertise to prepare an action plan. This plan would focus on the areas where the urbanisations were situated next to forested areas, on the maintenance of individual plots and self-protection protocols. Later that same day, the Mayor and some of the councillors would be meeting with the police, fire-fighters and other specialists to discuss some of the technical issues of the plan. Within a month or so, a series of meetings would be held with the various citizens' groups to advise on progress and help prepare for any potential fires later in the year.

The Department of Urban Development was working hard to provide habitation certificates for a number of property owners still awaiting the necessary paperwork for their houses. Good progress was being made on the backlog, especially for those properties where the correct documentation had been provided by the owners/developers. However, there were still a number of problems with those properties in areas not adopted by the Town Hall, where the onus was on the developers to comply with the legal requirements.

Many residents had experienced problems with their water supply during the summer of 2016. Following the substantial rains during the autumn and winter which had helped fill the aquifers, the water supply was more or less guaranteed for the coming year. Improvements made by AMJASA to its water production facility and the implementation of a number of savings initiatives would also help, as would the use of recycled water for agricultural purposes. Until recently, almost 5 million litres of used water each day was being pumped into the sea. This water would instead be used to irrigate farmland, thus saving the equivalent in fresh water.

The tourism policy for Jávea had changed. The Mayor, in his capacity as councillor for tourism, had made an important commitment to sustainability as a key part of planning for future tourism to the area. The Mayor stressed that he wanted everybody to enjoy our town, but without affecting the environment, the landscape and the local cultural values.

As part of its strategy for communicating effectively with all citizens, the Town Hall had introduced a smart-phone application (phone app) called Xàbia Connecta. The app, which could be set up in a number of languages, was being used to inform people about key events and emergencies such as road closures or fires. It was also being used to publicise news events and provide contact details for various Town Hall departments. In return, users could immediately inform the Town Hall about a range of minor incidents or problems, and attach photographs to help the response. For example, the Town Hall could be informed of any street signs needing replacing. Members were warned, however, that if the street name was currently shown in Castilian Spanish then any replacement sign would be in Valenciano. This might, in turn, cause all sorts of problems! All the same, the app was a free download and was fully recommended. It should not, however, be confused with Jávea Connect, which was a Facebook Group and used (mainly) to convey social information between expatriates living in the area.

Lastly, the Department of Security had established a Mediation Officer within the Local Police force. This was a service designed to resolve, through dialogue, conflicts between neighbours without having to resort to official complaints. In this way, problems could be tackled before they escalated in the knowledge that, sometimes, the solution was easier than it appeared and just needed a face-to-face talk with an impartial mediator. This was also another way in which the Local Police force could be perceived as a means of help. The Mediation Officer is called Juan Luis and 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.

Andrew thanked Doris for her contribution and asked her to pass on our thanks to the Mayor. In addition, he noted that the Town Hall should be congratulated for its achievements over the past year, especially last September when not only did it have the devastating fires to deal with, but also managed successfully to host La Vuelta cycle race and a major local fiesta at the same time.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The previous AGM had been held 15th March 2016. As well as the usual AGM agenda items, Andrew had reminded everybody that the APMJ was able to help with many individual issues, not least as it was able to call upon the services of experienced people, such as Sally Skelton, to help people navigate the intricacies of local bureaucracy.

The proposal to approve the minutes of that meeting was made by Gillian Ashworth and seconded by Tom Stevenson. Carried unanimously.

3. President's Report on 2016

In his report for 2015, made at the previous year's AGM, Andrew had highlighted liaison with local authorities as the key achievement. On reflection, he had come to recognise that the vast majority of the APMJ's work was about sharing information and helping people. The monthly Montgó Mornings provided an excellent opportunity to do this. Over the past year, we had enjoyed talks from a variety of organisations and individuals including Amigos Europeos de Jávea, one of the local ambulance service providers; Viveros Chorro, about the latest laws regarding the use of pesticides and other gardening tips; Telitec, about the arrival (or not!) of fibre optic cabling to our part of the town and the alternative interim options available; and APASA, the local dog rescue centre. When no guest speaker had been available, we had used the Montgó Mornings to share information about local issues as well our concerns on topics such as security, noise disruption, etc. Where there was useful information to share with those unable to attend a particular Montgó Morning, an email was sent shortly afterwards containing a summary of what had been discussed.

Just as importantly, the Montgó Mornings enabled us to welcome new members and simply be sociable, such as the December event at which we had enjoyed hearing about how Christmas was celebrated in a number of countries as well as sampling a number of seasonal foods. In between Montgó Mornings, the APMJ had helped many members with their individual queries and problems, either via e-mail, telephone or in person.

Liaison with local authorities had, of course, continued. Andrew tried to hold regular meetings with Doris Courcelles at the Town Hall to share information and discuss problems. Likewise, a close link with the Local Police was maintained through a friendship with one of its senior officers.

A meeting had been held with the volunteer firemen from Balcón al Mar to talk about fire prevention issues. Also, despite some successes with the clearance of overgrown plots following a series of Denuncias, Andrew was very aware that much more needed to be done to help ensure our safety. He therefore encouraged individuals to make Denuncias about plots affecting their homes in the hope that something would eventually be done. The Denuncia process was very easy (and anonymous) and could be carried out quickly at the Town Hall Help Desk located in Avda Amanecer.

Following the continual and unannounced water shortages last summer, Andrew had visited the AMJASA offices to complain about the poor treatment of its customers in the Montgó area and had asked that the company have the courtesy, in future, to let us know when the water would be turned off (and back on again). These are, of course, not the exact words used during that visit, but for the sake of these minutes represent a fair summary of what was heatedly discussed!

On behalf of a small group of neighbours, a Denuncia had been made against a disruptive business operating in one of the residential streets. The hoped-for outcome was that the business would relocate soon and leave everybody in peace.

The APMJ had supported three charities during 2016. Firstly, we had immediately helped the volunteer firemen to replace equipment lost in the September fires. Later, we had contributed to the purchase of schoolbooks for local children and had donated some money to APASA to help it rebuild some of the kennels at its facility.

Lastly, we had enjoyed a visit to some local gardens and had held two lunches over the course of the year.

4. Financial Report

The APMJ's accounts for 2016 had been audited and certified correct. A copy of the statement of account for 2016 is attached to these minutes. As in previous years, our income more or less matched our expenses, the expenses being the day-to-day running costs of the APMJ. The amount of €2000 donated to charity, shown as expenditure, had been drawn from our bank reserves. At the end of the year, the bank balance was €8165.

Looking ahead to 2017, we expected to receive €3450 in membership fees, as well as sell the remaining 11 mailboxes at €80 each. Our running costs (meetings, representation, website maintenance, insurance, stationery, bank charges, etc) were expected to be €4210.

It was proposed that we also consider making more donations in the coming year of up to €1500 in total, as well as earmark up to €500 for expenditure on warnings signs and so forth if thought useful and necessary. Any charities receiving a donation would be decided by the Committee based on suggestions from the membership. In turn, the receiving charities, where appropriate, would be asked to attend one of our Montgó Mornings to tell us more about their organisation and their work.

In response to a question from the floor it was made clear that there was no intention of running the bank reserves down to nothing. Instead, it was considered that, as a minimum, we should keep €5000 in reserve at all times.

Acceptance of the Financial Report was proposed by Roy Brown and seconded by Phil Fraser. Carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

In response to a request for volunteers over the past few months, three new members had joined the Committee: Ray Bigger as Vice President and President-elect, Chris Michel as Social Secretary and Sue Thornhill as the new NHW Coordinator for the Montgó area.

The full list of proposed Officers and Committee members for 2017 was:

- President – Andrew Simmonds
- Vice President – Ray Bigger
- Secretary – Barbara Walters
- Treasurer – Tom Hay
- Membership – Ann Hambrook
- Website – Gillian Ashworth

- Social – Chris Michel
- Buzones – Hans Sleutjes
- Continuity – Anny Koenen de Bie
- NHW – Sue Thornhill
- Ex Officio – Sally Skelton

Tim Fawle proposed the Officers and Committee Members shown above; this was seconded by Mel Bigger. Carried unanimously.

Looking ahead, when Ray took over as President early next year, he in turn would be seeking a volunteer to take on the role of Vice President. Barbara had also indicated that a replacement would be needed for her as she had carried out the job for many years and was looking to step down.

6. Focus for 2017

The main focus for 2017 was similar to that for previous years: we would continue to communicate and challenge. We would also look to increase our membership from the current 270 households, not least as more members would help give us greater credibility when dealing with the Town Hall and other institutions. As an association with people from a variety of backgrounds and possessing skills in many areas, we would also look to harness those talents to greater effect to help us out in a number of ongoing and new projects.

Likewise, we would continue to harness new technology wherever possible. One example was the newly-instituted group on WhatsApp which was being used to convey NHW information rapidly to recipients. It should be noted that WhatsApp was being used side-by-side with the NHW e-mail notifications and was not intended as a substitute.

Members were also reminded about our highly informative and regularly updated website, which could be found at www.montgoresidents.com

7. Social Events/Future Meetings

Our main events would be the monthly Montgó Mornings and we would continue to try and make these as interesting and relevant as possible. To this end, ideas for guest speakers were always welcome.

With Chris Michel on board as the new Social Secretary, we would be looking to arrange some new events such as a guided walking tour of the old town. We would also continue to hold one or two lunches during the course of the year.

The APMJ General Assembly will be held in late October 2017. The actual date would be confirmed as soon as possible. The next Annual General Meeting would be in March 2018.

8. Any Other Business

A suggestion was made that solar-based street lighting could be installed at various key locations in the area. In a similar vein, high visibility (highviz) markers could be placed at the end of the main access roads leading off from the Carretera de Jesús Pobre. Both these ideas would be discussed with the Town Hall in due course.

With no other business to discuss, Andrew closed the meeting at 1150 and thanked everybody for their attendance and support.

President
Andrew Simmonds

Secretary
Barbara Walters

Attachment:

1. Financial Statement for 2016.