

Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Javeá

Minutes of General Meeting held on 26th October 2011

COMMITTEE PRESENT:

President	Paul Wessendorff
Vice President	Peter Allin
Treasurer	Michael Cox
Membership Secretary	Wilma Stevenson
Groups Coordinator	John Bellinger-Smith
Communications Officer	Carol Pilgram

LOCATION:

Parador Hotel, Javeá

The meeting commenced at 11:03

President's Report

Welcome

Paul welcomed everybody to the meeting and asked that all mobile phones be turned off. Robin Race had a problem turning off his newly acquired mobile phone and was aided by Mick Cox.

Previous Minutes

There were no comments from the members and the Minutes of the September General Meeting were duly approved by all assembled. Acceptance was proposed by John White and seconded by Cheda Panajotovic

Autumn Social Events

Paul reminded members who have not as yet booked their tickets for the Barn Dance to be held at Los Arcos on the 11th November, to do so as soon as possible as this event was now nearly sold out.

Paul gave an update of previous charity events that had taken place:

- The musical evening at Pinosol, organised by Peter Adams in aid of the Denia Branch of the Salvation Army Food Support Programme had raised €2100, a magnificent achievement.
- The Hog Roast held at Villa Resy in aid of Caritas raised €965, Paul once again thanked Diane and Ross Ord for the use of their villa and presented them with a

gift of flowers and wine; Diane replied that they were very happy to have been able to help.

Paul advised the members that Mike Frost's computer was down at the moment and he was unable to reply to e-mails in the short term. John Bellinger-Smith asked for e-mails to be sent to him via u3atravel@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Paul expressed sadness at the deaths of:

- Ken Vickers after a long cancer related illness. Ken died in the UK. We will get in touch with his wife Margaret to see whether she requires any help or assistance, as and when she returns to Spain.
- Judie Mellars died in Spain after a relatively short illness. Her body has been returned to the UK for burial.

In both cases condolences have been sent to their friends and family on behalf of the U3A Javeá.

November Meeting

Paul informed the members that, as usual, the November meeting will be something special and not to be missed.

- The Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir has agreed to come along and sing carols and other songs from their repertoire.
- The Committee will 'entertain' the members as has been done in past years, i.e. 2009 Ladies dancing to Feliz Navidad and 2010 Gentlemen's Pantomime of Cinderella. This years event is one not to be missed.

Departing Group Leaders

There were two group leaders resigning this month:

- Marian Mansell who ran the Solos on Sundays so successfully and has now been succeeded by Graham Castleton. Marian was given a gift of flowers in appreciation of all she has done for that group.
- Mike Frost who ran the Travel Group. Mike was the founder member of the U3A Javeá and has served as President and Vice President. Mike was given a voucher for dinner for two at La Cocina Restaurant and wine in appreciation for all that he has done for the U3A over a considerable period of time.

Vice President's Report

Update on Discounts List Review

The review is now 85% complete and should be finished soon. Peter also announced that the discount star rating system was going well and requested that members continue sending a rating.

Update on Speaker Programme

Peter asked for more speakers to be recommended or to come forward as he likes to have a spare list of people he can call on to cover any cancellations. He told the members that 4 out of last 6 speakers cancelled.

The full program of speakers is on the website and in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Mike gave a short report to let the members know the bank transfers are working well.

Membership Secretary Report

Wilma advised that there were 17 new members this month bringing the total membership up to 1122.

She also advised that renewals were now being taken for those members who were not able to renew in January.

Communications Officer's Report

Carol advised the members that:

- The electronic Newsletter was now a 'link' from the e-mail and no longer an attachment to be downloaded.
- Updates of events etc are on the Website and not in the Newsletter
- More volunteers are required for the Welcoming team. Carol briefly outlined the task of welcoming new members, telling them about the group activities and meetings etc
- Tom Miller is the Publicity Officer and is responsible for photos in the Newsletter and local press.
- A reminder to bring 'dry' food stuffs for the Caritas appeal at the November meeting. Apparently Tuna is very popular along with other tinned or packet food stuffs.

Group Coordinator's Report

John reported:

- Late news announcement – Angela Chantry is running a cultural outing to Cinderella in Ondara, anyone wishing to go please contact Angela. There are coaches available from the usual stops.
- John is trying to re-establish the Car Treasure Hunt, with the next event planned for February
- Helga is running the new Scrabble Group, see the website for more details.
- Penny is running the new Play Reading Group, see the website for more details.
- Spanish for Beginners in starting again in January, there are still places available.

- The Art Group for beginners has been postponed waiting for a replacement teacher following the death of Judie Mellars.
- The Travel Group need more organisers

AOB

There was no other business.

Speaker

Paul welcomed Pere Sapena and Oscar Anton to the meeting.

Peter introduced Pere Sapena, the Town Planning Councillor and Oscar Anton the Deputy Mayor of Javeá.

Pere Sapena, with Oscar Anton translating, gave a talk on the General Plan for Javeá's development and maintenance.

He told us that:

- The existing General Plan for Javeá was from 1990 and it was now at phase 2.
- It was important to complete the projects that have been started, both for residents and tourists.
- There was the opportunity at this stage to overhaul and review the situation and that an analysis was being carried out as to what needs to be done, what can be financed and how the 1990 plan can be adapted.
- Participation of all residents, companies, professionals and organisations was being encouraged.
- The new planning committee will hold all it's meetings in public
- The General Plan was available for all to see and comment on.
- There would be a photographic map, similar to Google Maps, showing the layout of Javeá, to include all street names and numbers. (there was amusement from the floor)
- Currently the General Plan is at Phase 2
- Valencia has to approve each Phase.
- The General Plan should be completed within the next 4 years.

There were then questions from the floor:

Where was the Office of the General Plan?

Either at the Help Desk of the New Town Hall at El Clot
Or the church near the Technical Office.

Is the Library in the Port going to be completed and when?

Yes, by the original contractors who are now being penalised financially, it should be finished by Christmas 2011. There is also a grant from Valencia.

It is understood that the General Plan only lasts 10 years?

Once the objectives have been agreed everything in the General Plan must be finished.

It is understood that the Mayor is not taking a salary to finance the General Plan?

The Mayor's salary is being used for a different Plan, not the General Plan

(Afternote as provided by Oscar Anton in explanation of his reply.

I understood that the questioner was referring to the cost of fees for the revision to the Town Plan, which themselves amount to some 1,200,000€ for which neither the Alcalde nor we councillors as a whole would be able to reduce such costs from our own salaries.

If the questioner was referring to the foregoing of his salary by the Alcalde as payment towards the cost of the Strategic Plan, a cost that is around 12,000€, then the answer is yes, as this plan is being funded by the reductions in costs in the 2011 budget, amongst which savings the Alcade's salary is included.)

Are Roads going to be repaired and can the residents pay for repairs to roads outside their houses?

There is €1.8 million set aside for repairing roads in this financial year. Any extensions to houses in the past were required to also include the improvement of the infrastructure around the property. This is now being simplified and made cheaper for the property owner. However, property owners will still be expected to make a contribution to the improvement of the infrastructure.

Any group of property owners wishing to improve their roads should contact the Town Hall.

Which roads are going to be improved?

67% of roads in Javeá are in need of repair. A judgement will be made by the Technical Office which are the worse and they will be improved first.

When will the computerised map be available?

3 to 6 months.

Will the tables and chairs on the Port Promenade be allowed again?

This is a ruling from the Office of Coastal Development in Madrid. The fine for placing tables and chairs on the coast side of the road is €20,000.

With parking in the town at a premium why are the cafes and bars allowed to put terraces in the road, thus reduce g parking places?

This was allowed in the 1990 plan and the Town Hall could not refuse the licences for the summer. This may be revised.

Is the Arenal Beach going to be improved?

There is a project for improvement to the whole Arenal area. A budget of €2.3 million has been allocated. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have an appointment with the Valencian Council tomorrow (27th October 2011) to obtain a grant. It will be a four month project (hopefully) which will start in January 2012. There will be some allowance for the tourist seasons at Easter and the summer.

Paul and Peter thanked the two speakers for their most informative and interesting talk, and for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend our meeting and talk to us. Peter presented Pere and Oscar with gifts of wine.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm.

Proposed by (name)

Signed

Seconded by (name)

Signed

Signed

Signed

President
Jávea U3A

Deputy Secretary
Jávea U3A