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## Palmeras de Altea Residents' Association - AGM 2015 - Minutes of the meeting.

The Annual general meeting of 'Palmeras de Altea Residents' Association' was held at the Piano bar in the Villa Gadea Hotel, Altea on Saturday, March 28th, 2015 and was attended by 29 members of the Association. There were five proxy votes held by members of the board, a further nine proxy votes held by members, we had applications for two new members and four apologies for absence were received.

The President, Mr Carlos Iturrioz made first call 16.45 hours and the meeting officially came to order at 17.00 hours. Members of the board present were:

- Carlos Iturrioz, President.
- Cor vanden Heuvel, Treasurer.
- Trevor Giddings, Secretary.
- Richard Verney, Vocal member.

### Agenda:

1. Opening and welcome by the President.
2. Reading of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29th March 2014, approval and adoption.
3. Review by the President of Activities and Achievements.
4. Financial Report 2014.  
Budget for 2015.  
Annual membership fee, proposal to be held at €150 per annum.
5. Elections:  
After 4 years of duty, according to the statutes, the position of President must be available for election or re-election. Our present President Carlos Iturrioz has decided to step down and not stand for re-election for personal reasons.  
We would like to encourage members, possibly Spanish speaking members, to offer themselves as a candidate for the post of President and Vice President.  
Existing Board: President : Carlos Iturrioz.  
Vice President : Vacant.  
Secretary : Trevor Giddings.  
Treasurer : Cor van den Heuvel.  
Non-Executive : Richard Verney.
6. Information Centre:  
Proposal to identify houses that contribute to the Galera's upgrade and maintenance at the street plan/information centre at the entrance.
7. Questions from the floor and any other business.
8. Closing the meeting by the President.

### Item 1:

The President opened the meeting by welcoming those present and thanking them for their attendance. The President noted that one of our members, Mr John Beautiman, had passed away and offered the boards condolences to his family. He also pointed out that as agreed at last years AGM the meeting would be held in English but that he would be happy to translate any part of the meeting into Spanish if asked. He then asked the members that because last year we had problems with questions being asked from the floor during his opening remarks that he would appreciate it if the members could refrain from asking questions until we get to the ending of the meeting part 7.

### **Item 2:**

The President pointed out that these minutes had been posted to all the members either by email or by postal mail and were also available on the Associations web site. The President asked whether any member required these minutes to be read out or whether they could be adopted as published. A vote was taken and the members voted to adopt the minutes without a formal reading.

### **Item 3:**

The President then proceeded to review the activities and achievements by the board's officers during the last twelve months. There is an appendix, arranged in month order, attached to these minutes showing a variety of activities and achievements. He said 2014 had been the most productive of former years. He said we had, with a patient approach, managed to get a close co-operation with the Ayuntamiento. We have had several meetings with officials to get improvements to our roads, invited officials from the infrastructure and planning departments to discuss the Railway bridge and the serious concerns we have for health because of sewage spillage. They have promised to commit as much as they can to us but are constrained by the lack of finance. They said if and whenever there is a problem with sewage we should telephone them or the Police and they will organise trucks to clean and clear the sewage. Everyone must be aware of this and telephone the Police or Ayuntamiento themselves and not to expect the board to make call for them. We have already given the appropriate numbers to call to all our members but we will send again. He also said we should be aware that if a problem occurred on a Friday no one would come until Monday.

He said the Railway bridge had been a problem for a long time and after many meetings the Ayuntamiento had finally put tarmac on the road and put signs on the bridge.

He then turned to the water shortages. The urbanisation, Altea Hills, had a problem with their water supply because of the way it was obtained from deep wells, salt had leaked into their water supply. The Ayuntamiento decided, as a temporary measure, to supply the Altea Hills with water from our supply and install a new Pump. The water goes through our estate to the houses on our estate first and then on to Altea Hills. The long term plan is for the Ayuntamiento to buy a plot of land on the Altea Hills estate, install a much bigger pump in Altea Hills and we will get our supply from there but until then they will get their supply from us.

The entrance to the Galera has been cleaned by members of the board with the aid of voluntary helpers and planted shrubs to improve the look of the entrance. He said we had also painted the Casita, replaced the traffic signs, put in cats eyes in the road, white lines and traffic signs on the bridge that the association had paid for.

He said we had asked for mirrors to be installed on parts of the estate but the professional people had advised this could be counter productive and encourage people to be over confident and drive faster. We have had white lines painted on our roads in various parts of the estate too and it will help to keep people on the correct side of the road.

At the warehouse we have installed a fence to stop people from dumping household furniture there, it is possible to leave such household items on the first Saturday of every month now and we will arrange pick up from there.

He said we had discussed the transition from the old Association to ours and as agreed at the previous years AGM 2014 we wrote a joint letter to the Galpalm treasurer but received no response. Carlos then wrote another letter, showed it to Mrs Clementine Ricard and Mr Claude Biasi before sending it to Galpalm treasurer again. We asked in the letter if it was possible all their assets could be passed to us and yet again no reply was received from the treasurer of Galpalm so we decided not to approach them anymore. Carlos then wrote another letter advising that we had taken over as the main association, the casita etc. Carlos, Mrs Clementine Ricard and Mr Claude Biasi signed it and a copy was sent to all residents on the Galeras.

He asked if anyone attending the meeting who had been a member of the Galpalm association could write to the treasurer themselves and ask for their own money back. As far as our association is concerned, if our association ceased to exist as per our statute any funds left are to be donated to a local charity. Carlos then translated a resume in Spanish.

Carlos warned the meeting the Ayuntamiento had promised many things but had no money and many commitments, so we should bear that in mind.

We will continue to build our web page, create a social environment with our informal meetings to which more people are attending.

Carlos ended his review by mentioning item 5 which refers to elections for the board. He said that after 4 years the only person who had been on the board for that length of time was him. During that time he had learned many things like how to co-operate, how to fight things with the Ayuntamiento. He said the board have been of great help, that we had worked as a team not just one person and thanked the Secretary Trevor Giddings, Treasurer Cor vanden Heuvel and Vocal member Richard Verney for all their efforts.

A member, **Hans** asked the audience to clap the board for their efforts and a short round of applause ensued.

#### **Item 4:**

The President asked if the members had any questions about the Financial report 2014 which had already been sent to them by email or mail prior to the AGM.

**Ros** asked about water shortages during the summer. We have them every year and was this year going to be the same. Carlos answered that the water supply change was temporary, it was because Altea Hills supply had salt in it and was the reason why their supply was being put through ours for now.

**Hans** asked about the Altea Hills own water supply and where they got it from. Carlos said their original supply was pumped from the ground and salt had got into that source. The Ayuntamiento have said they will get a new source for Altea Hills and eventually it would supply both Altea Hills and Las Galeras de Palmeras. As yet we do not know exactly how they will do that. At the moment our supply comes under the casita and then pumped to all the houses.

**Carol** asked if we would have to pay towards the cost of this new supply because in the past the residents had been obliged to. Carlos said the Ayuntamiento have said they will do it which he took to mean they would pay for it. Carol told the meeting they had said that before but the residents still had to pay. Carlos said there would have to be a project raised to do this work and if we complained in sufficient numbers the work would have to stop. He reiterated the Ayuntamiento had said they will do it themselves and he believed that meant the residents would not have to pay at all.

**Another resident** said he had been, without water at times in the past and was this new arrangement going to make it worse? Carlos said we had a small capacity for water supply and the Ayuntamiento were going to build a bigger capacity for us and Altea Hills. In any case he thought the supply would not be any worse. At an impromptu meeting at the Ayuntamiento, several residents joined us, we met officials of the Ayuntamiento and Aigues Altea to find out more about the proposed changes and at that meeting the Aigue Altea representative said there would be no change and may even be an improvement to the supply.

**Hans** asked if our supply stopped for any reason then could we switch off the supply to Altea Hills? Carlos said no and in any case the water supply went to our houses first so Altea Hills would suffer first.

**Paul** asked if there was a minimum water pressure that should be supplied? Carlos said he didn't know. **Paul** said his water pressure was low since the alteration but when he had complained officials had visited his house and told him the problems were inside his house. **Paul** said the Ayuntamiento had promised to clean the streets every six months and hadn't. **Carlos** said they had cleaned the streets last year. Another resident said when their water pressure was very low they had their pipes cleaned and it was ok again.

**Paul** said it was Aigues Alteas responsibility to make sure the pressure was sufficient and **Ton** informed the meeting that his water pressure was between 4 and 5.

**Ros** suggested to Paul it would be a good idea if he contacted his neighbours to see if they had the same problem and if so then go as a group to the Aigues Altea to complain.

There being no further questions around the Budget 2015 and the Financial report 2014 a vote was taken and they were approved by the members.

We proposed to keep the fee at €150 unless the members wanted to raise it in order to pay for an increase in services. A resident asked why the Galpalm Association fee was €220 and ours was still €150. Carlos told them it was broken down as €150 membership and €70 for a Buzon.

**Cor** said why should half of the residents pay twice as much when half of the residents on the Galera do not pay anything at all. Carlos said we cannot force people to pay, maybe we won't get any more members, maybe it is because people don't want to join or can't afford to join. Carlos said we had spoken about trying to increase our membership at last years AGM but that hadn't really happened.

A suggestion was made that each member should have a sticker to put inside their car and outside their house to make it easy to identify who were members and who were not. Apparently this was tried once before and not many were willing to do so. The map outside the Casita could be used to highlight which houses are members and which ones are not. Carlos said there could be residents who want to be members and don't know how to. Carlos said we need to decide whether to keep the fee at €150 now because it cannot wait.

**Richard** said we have made a Budget using the projected amount of fees we will receive for 2015 and calculated the amount of work that Budget will enable us to do. Carlos said our treasurer knows how much we need and we cannot do more than we are. **Cor** said we should keep the fee as it is and use the Map (highlighted) as a lever to get more members to which suggestion there was a general agreement.

With that it was agreed to keep the fee at €150.

#### **Item 5:**

The post of President is now vacant because Carlos, for personal reasons after four years hard work, decided to step down from being President. Because no one at the meeting wished to stand for election for President or Vice President a group of people should form a committee to seek out a suitable candidate.

The board were asked to continue for the time being without a President until the board can call an extraordinary meeting to discuss this matter. The remaining board members were all approved to carry on for a further year.

#### **Item 6:**

When we got to this item the subject of Stickers for members cars and houses was raised again. This time a vote was taken and a majority voted in favour. However, this vote was immediately overturned by further discussion because **Ton** said (again) this had been tried before with the Galpalm association and 50% would not do it. The big problem was we would have to issue new stickers every year otherwise we could have a member who paid one year and then not pay anymore for the next ten years and no one would know because they continued to have the stickers. We agreed to bring an example of a possible sticker to be used and a list with the properties of our members to be displayed in the Casita to the extraordinary meeting.

#### **Item 7:**

**Hans** mentioned he was worried the sewage pipe he was connected to could burst and cause him big problems with sewage spillage. He has tried to find out where this pipe goes to and get in touch with everyone who lives above him to get their help in solving this problem. He said he would cut

off the sewage connection if they did not co-operate but Carlos told him he did not have the legal right to do that. Carlos said he must go to court first and get a judge to authorise such an action otherwise he could be in big trouble with the law.

**Brian**, a new member to Palmeras Association, said he thought there had been an arrangement to pass the funds from the Galpalm Association to our Association. He said the treasurer Els Reniers

is his neighbour and he thought there had been a meeting between the Associations. He said he was going to talk to her about it as soon as he could to find out if he was due a refund. Carlos told him we had written to her about the funds but had received no reply.

He also said we had decided at last years AGM 2014 we would write a joint letter with Mrs Clementine Ricard and Mr Claude Biasi and that is what we have done.

Carlos, before closing the meeting, told us he had been to a meeting in Altea Vella with the Ayuntamiento about their plans for the area. He told us they had projects for the whole area for roads, Electricity etc and it ran to 3,000 pages. The Ayuntamiento have a presentation for this document on their web site and he recommended we all read it, especially about the area where we live. He said the last plan was to build a new high road and also said the Toll road will become toll free from 2019. Each person should know what is happening in their area (not just the board) and to study the project. The Altea Vella people at the meeting were not happy and very angry with the Mayor because they don't think there is any benefit to them from his plans.

There being no further questions from the floor the President formally closed the meeting at 18.58 subsequent to which all those present retired to the bar for refreshment and further informal discussion.

Trevor Giddings (Secretary)

11th April 2015