

La Asociación de Gata Residencial
Minutes of the 12th committee meeting
On 25th May 2008
In the Community area in the Fairy Garden

Those present

M1A Angie Dickinson (AD)
M1C Sally Merrett (Secretary) (SM)
M2 Roger Lloyd (Chairman) (RL)
M2 Peter Bayliss (PB)
M3 Pepa Simo (PS)
M4 Anne Williams (AW)
M5 Bill Crompton (BC)
M6 Esperanza Vila (EV)
M7 / 11 Steve Jobson (SJ)
M8 Pat Redgewell (PR)
M9 Allen Scofield (AS)
M10 Tom Miller (TM)
M12A Tony Kerslake (TK)
M12B Jan Barry (JB)
M13 Geoff Baker (GB)
M14/15 Sue Benson (SBe)
M16 Sigmund Bang (SBa)
M19 Leigh Patterson (LP)
M24 Jenny Wren (JW)
M24 Chelo Guillem (CG)

Absent

M18A Roswitha Bourton (RB) (Apologies received)
M6 Brian Finch (BF) (Apologies received)

Invited for item 8 - Antonio

1. Welcome

M12B Jan Barry – As a new rep she was formally welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting

These were taken as read and agreed with the following amendment.

Site Issues 6 i. – Should read that the documents had been forwarded to “Sñr Montaña” not “Sñr Pons.”

The minutes were signed as correct by the president and secretary.

3. Matters Arising

- i. **Fencing Documents** – TK reported that they are at the town hall and have been displayed.
- ii. **Council Meeting** – It was noted that SM had obtained a copy and distributed a précis.
- iii. **Riega and the Well** – PS outlined her research. Jubesa still owns the well and their registered address is still Reyes Católico. However, they are not responding to any communications and it is illegal for them to present bills. PS asked that in the event of Jubesa presenting a bill or taking money out of anyone's account for riega water, they should contact her. She stated that Sñr Pons is attempting to take the well into the control of the council and run it through concessions. PS stated that there are many court cases involving Jubesa but that they were dependent upon the outcome of another court case between Jubesa and Techmolder. However, she stressed that it would take years to resolve this issue through the courts.
- iv. **Cedulas** - PS outlined the position which was largely in line with that given by Sñr Pons at the recent Sector 13 meeting. After a long discussion regarding the best way forward and following advice from PS, the following actions were agreed:
Action:
 - 1. *The Association will send a letter regarding the issuing of cedulas, pressing them for action on inspections, and a written indication of timescale for their issue. SM to draft.*
 - 2. *Individuals will be advised to fill out an “instancia general” making a complaint and asking for a written explanation of why the cedula has not been issued to date.*
- v. **M15** - RL, SBe and LP reported that they had been in contact with M15 owners and that Steve Garrett is now in contact with Sñr Montaña with a view to setting up their own community.
- vi. **Keys for notice boards** – SM reported that these had been obtained.

4. Correspondence

Legal entity - RL reported that the association was now a legal entity but noted that, at this moment, it had no members and 500€. However, the relevant documents are all in our possession and we are ready to formally launch the association.

5. Launch

- RL outline plans for the event:
- i. June 8th @ 5.30 on the water deposito.
 - ii. **Action: Reps were asked to publicise and promote the event and the association.** This is in addition to GONG and the website. They were asked to highlight achievements to date (see website) and to emphasise the benefits:
 - 1. Recognition by the council as the representative body of Gata Residencial & its residents.
 - 2. Working with the council to resolve issues and develop relationships between pueblo & urbanisation
 - 3. Development of a programme of events to enhance the community both socially & environmentally.
 - 4. It was agreed to restrict access to the Association website etc to members only.
 - 5. The association is now able to apply for grants from the council.
 - iii. SM has created documents as follows:
 - 1. Information flyers – To be printed & published on the website.
 - 2. Application forms – To be printed and available in hard copy or through the website.

Action: SM & PB to liaise re: placing on GONG & the association website.

 - 1. Membership cards – To be printed.
 - i. **Fees** – it was explained that these would normally be set at the AGM but in this instance the committee would set them until such time the first AGM next year.

Proposal: *That the annual fees be set as follows: 10€ a one-off joining fee and 10€ for 2008 – This payment is per household not per person. The membership would normally run on a calendar year from January.*

Proposer: SJ Seconder: GB

It was agreed UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Site Issues

RL stated that much was covered in the Sector 13 meeting on Tuesday 20th. The following has occurred since then:

- i. **Street Lights** – On Friday 23rd 7 committee members representing Gata Residencial made official complaints to the council regarding the lack of street lighting. RL updated on the situation and stated that no-one knew why some lights were on and others off. There was general agreement that the council should be paying for this service as residents were paying taxes or will be paying them in arrears. There was concern expressed that money from the aval is being taken to cover consumables and not repairing the infrastructure. It was stated that the council have sought advice from their legal team but that the bank is pressing the council to adopt the urbanisation. However both PS & RL stated that they could not advise anyone to stop paying their rates. They stated that penalties accrue at

10% then another 10% and then councils have the power to seize and sell someone's house. It was stated that the council were entitled to back-date rates for a maximum of 4 years but only from the time of going to the notary. There was general concern expressed at the lack of action but PS stated that the ultimate recourse regarding dissatisfaction with the council is to go to the administrative courts. PS stated that the best way forward is for individuals to fill in "instancias generales" requiring a response from the council. This is in addition to pressure from the association through meetings and letters.

Action: SM to formulate a template wording for distribution on the website to assist those who have limited Spanish as the forms have to be filled in using castellano.

- ii. **Bank** – RL stated that Caixa Catalunya are financing the whole urbanisation project and need to be made aware of how many people this affects. PS stated that they were aware of this but that they would be reminded in future planned meetings.
- iii. **M18A pipework** – In RB's absence RL stated that the situation appears to be at a stalemate as the pipe is on private land. PS stated that Ferrovial should bear the responsibility and that Siprona (environmental agency) have been called in to act.
- iv. **Gas** – SBa outlined his deep concerns regarding:
 - 1. The fact that a few residents had or had tried to connect bottles when the gas was cut off recently and he highlighted the dangers of explosion.
 - 2. Residents did not know that the gas was cut off and when it was turned on again.

He suggested a system for communicating cut offs to residents. RL outlined an alternative as discussed with Sñr Pons at the Sector 13 meeting. It was generally agreed that this is the role of the police and is the most effective way of communicating with residents.

Regarding the connection of bottled gas it was noted that Sñr Pons will be writing to residents but in addition it was agreed to circulate information on GONG.

Action: SM / SB to draft warning.

7. Social Issues

- i. **Party in the Park** – Ticket sales are going well. SJ stated that 400¹ have been sold to date, by Liz Lloyd and Sandra Armor but that they would also be on sale at the launch, Book Xchange and Gata Gardeners. After this reps would be asked to sell remaining tickets. SJ & TK will be arranging the bar next week. There will be similar activities to last year inc. Book Xchange but AS stated that there is an issue with lighting to be addressed. SJ explained that there would be 8-10 big prizes and that reps were asked to politely decline any offers of donations. This was in order to ease distribution of prizes. TK stated that ambulance people have been notified.
- ii. **Book Exchange** – AS reported that approx 50 people are attending the Book Xchange and that the next one was next Sunday. All book donations are welcome.
- iii. **Gardens @ Gata** – SM reported that responses had been good and that since the

pages have been published more people have volunteered to have their gardens photographed. Reps were asked if they could suggest gardens whose owners could be approached.

- iv. **Gata Gardeners** – SM stated that the first session had gone well and that some new planting had taken place in addition to the pruning & clearing. She asked if people had cuttings or unwanted plants to contact her. Next date is June 15th in the Fairy Gardens.

8. Reps Issues & AOB

i. Dog's home – Antonio outlined his plans for a dog's home. He stated that there are two proposed sites. His preferred choice was on his property up near Font de La Mata but it required some alterations. The council's preferred choice is the old abattoir near the viaduct as you enter Gata (south.) Both options are away from Gata Residencial but he explained that he was hoping to gain support so that stray dogs would be cared for and not killed. The more people support him, the more money the council will give in grants. The current amount on offer is less than other councils and Antonio explained that he was trying to solve the council's problem. It was agreed that the association could support him in the following ways:

1. Ensure that contact details are published and links made on GONG & Website
2. Provide an opportunity for residents to find out about his plans and sign up to support his cause at the launch and other association events.

ii. Representative for the Plenary Session of All Sectors – The council has agreed that we can have two representatives. It was agreed that AD and CG would act as association reps at these meetings.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed as 27th July @ 10.00 am in the Community Area of the Fairy Gardens

President Secretary

Date

1 On checking SJ found this to be approx 200.