



U3A Vall del Pop



Minutes of U3A Vall del Pop General Assembly

Held on Thursday 7th February 2019

Venue: The Center Polivalent, Murla

In the Chair: **Bob Welham (President)**

Minute Taker: **Jennifer Beattie (Secretary)**

Members Attended: 113

1. Welcome and Introduction

The President, **Bob Welham** welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the people involved who supplied the cakes for the charity cake sales, and to Elaine Horton for helping the sales along. 174 Euros was raised.

Bob W also wished a Happy Birthday to Ditas Rohl and Brigid Redmond on behalf of the members.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting dated 10th January 2019

The minutes were then recorded as true and accurate and were proposed by **Sandra Welham** and seconded by **David Rohl**.

3. Matters Arising from 10th January 2019 Meeting

Bob W informed the members present that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is next month. The Nomination Forms will be out on the 14th February. All Committee positions are up for election. Also if anyone would like to get involved as a non-committee position please come forward.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Committee Members Reports

Treasurer's Report – Bob Hills presented the following report:-

“Since our last General Assembly I have paid various expenses summarised as follows:

€38	Printing costs
€50	Caretaker – Murla
€40	Hospitality costs
€67	Renewal of post box at Correos, Xalo
€1875	Website costs

The Website costs include:
€1250 Balance of design and build costs
€150 SSL certificate – (Security certificate)
€150 Maintenance/site running costs
All of these are subject to 21% IVA.

Most of these costs have come out of funds which we had previously 'ring fenced' during 2018 for web site development work. Maintenance costs are in 2019 budget.

Our membership team are currently working very hard at 2019 renewals and signing up new members, and I am pleased to advise you that the total of our members funds in bank and cash stands at €6760. This will increase when the Membership Secretary advises me later this morning the total of membership payments made today at this meeting.”

Membership Secretary- Barbara Bentley advised the members present that they have had successful satellite meetings for renewals, and today signed 23 new members and completed 130 renewals, giving a total to date of 504 paid up members. **Barbara** thanked her team.

Groups Co-Ordinator: - Marie Fitzgerald stated she had a busy morning speaking to the new members. Marie informed the membership that the new web site was up and running and that she is in the process of trying to update the new website with all the Groups details. Marie also advised the members that a new Men's group is starting in Parcent and also 2 Keep fit classes; the Thursday class needs new people.

Webmaster: - Bob W asked the membership to take the opportunity of looking at the new web site, however they are currently dealing with some teething problems in particular certain e-mail addresses. If any Member has any issues could they please inform **Ian or Bob W**.

Travel, Culture and Entertainment Team (TCET)

Sandra Welham informed the members that the trips desks were really busy today; Valencia shopping trip only 2 places left, however there are still places for the Bio-Park and Barcelona and Pensacola at Christmas.

Sandra also advised the members of 2 major shows – Concert by Sounds Familiar and Javea Players presenting My Fair Lady. Also El Cid Bowls Club is having a Charity Race Night Charity in aid of Jalon Valley Help. All details on the Notice Board in the Foyer.

6. AOB

Bob W invited **Elaine Horton MBE**, President of Jalon Valley Help to address the members on “**Healthcare in Spain – with or without a deal**” - Full report Appendix 1.

7. Speaker: - JANA PETKEN, Award winning novelist. Jana gave our U3A a most entertaining insight into her very varied and well-travelled life.

Date of the next General Assembly: Thursday 7th March 2019 - AGM.

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Any member wishing to comment on the contents of these minutes please e-mail The Secretary at:-

u3avalldelpop@gmail.com or Write using address: U3A Vall del Pop, Apartado Postal 120, 03727 Xalo.

Many thanks

Jennifer Beattie
Secretary

Signed..... **President**

Signed.....**Secretary**

APPENDIX 1

BREXIT and your NEED TO KNOW.

With less than 50 days to go before Brexit it is important to bring to your attention the advice given below in the 'Handout' provided by the British Consulate at an open meeting held in Alcalali just prior to Christmas.

INFORMATION FOR UK NATIONALS IN SPAIN



British Embassy
Madrid

Registering as a resident:

- If you plan to reside in Spain more than 3 months, you are required by the Spanish authorities to register as a resident
- To do so, you will need to make an appointment online and then attend the *Oficina de Extranjeros* (immigration office) or designated police station in your local area
- Once registered, you will be given a green card or certificate with your NIE number on it
- You must also register on the padrón, which is the local register at your town hall

For more information on registering as a resident and on the padrón, visit www.gov.uk/living-in-spain

Accessing healthcare:

To find out how to access healthcare in Spain, or to check that you are accessing healthcare in the correct way, please visit: www.healthcareinspain.eu

Concerned about Brexit?

Knowing where to get up to date information can be confusing. If you would like to know more about how the UK's exit from the EU could affect you, we recommend you:

- Type '**UK nationals in the EU: essential information**' in the search box on www.gov.uk. This page explains the progress of negotiations on citizens' rights and what the Withdrawal Agreement might mean for you
- Look at the **Living in Spain guide** on gov.uk and **sign up for email alerts** to be the first to know when information on this page, or related to Brexit, is updated
- **Follow Brits in Spain on facebook**, where we provide updates and advertise outreach events across Spain

Subsequently a number of reports have been published which again highlight the importance of British Nationals being properly registered if you reside in in Spain for a period in excess of three months. Of particular importance they relate to the provision of Health Care and such things as Passports, and Driving licences but there are many others all of which can be accessed via the Government web site www.gov.uk and are detailed in the previously mentioned 'Handout'.

Given the confusion that currently exists and the potential for a 'No deal Brexit' it is important to read the following reports.

Living in Spain - this report provides the overall position as at 29 January 2019.

Healthcare in Spain, including the Balearic Islands and Canary Islands. Published on 29 January 2019 contains detailed information regarding access to healthcare via EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) which is valid until 29th March 2019 following which it is advised that people secure private insurance to cover healthcare should it become necessary.

This report also details the entitlement to healthcare for UK Nationals who are properly registered as resident and have lived in Spain for more than five years continuously and may be able to apply for permanent residency. This will allow access to state-funded healthcare under the same conditions as Spanish citizens, for those who have lived in Spain for less than five years but have been registered with the local town hall for one year this report also provides information regarding the 'Convenio Especial' which is a pay-in health insurance scheme offered by the Spanish government that allows people not employed to "buy into" the Spanish System. (This currently requires a payment 60€ a month for those under 65yrs, and 157€ a month for those over).

Prepare to drive in the EU after Brexit. Updated on 10 February 2019 and contains a paragraph in which it states that "If you are a UK licence holder living in the EU or EEA you should exchange your licence for a local EU driving licence before the 29th March 2019. From that date you may have to pass a driving test in the EU country you live in to be able to carry on driving there. You should consider exchanging your UK driving licence for Spanish one.

You can drive on your EU licence when visiting the UK.

If you return to live in the UK, provided you passed your driving licence in the UK or another specified country, you can exchange your EU licence as soon as possible. Increased demand may lead to longer processing times and delays to exchanging driving licences the closer it is to 29th March 2019. licence for a UK licence without taking another test.

Passport rules for travel to Europe after Brexit. Published on 4 December 2018.

This report provides advice for British passport holders if the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal and states that "British passport holders should have at least six months on your passport from your date of arrival. This applies to both adult and child passports.

If you renewed a passport before it expired, up to nine extra months may have been added to your passports expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over ten years may not count towards the six months that should be remaining for travel to most countries."

As a final comment it is extremely important to keep a close eye on the websites recommended by the British Consulate where it possible for you to sign up for early 'alerts' regarding any changes to policy. With less than 50 days to the 29 March it makes sense to keep abreast of things from official sources particularly if we end up with a 'no deal' Brexit.