

Meeting of the town Council on September 24th 2009

Author - Mario Blancke

On Thursday September 24 a special meeting of the Council was held in the Town Hall of Alcaucin to address several proposals made by the PSOE (Socialist Party in opposition). Two of the PSOE councillors were not present at the meeting. There were more members of the public present (21) than is usual although only two of them were women.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The motion was passed after a heated discussion about the loss of a €6000 subsidy which had been applied for by the previous governing group (PSOE). The crux of the matter was that a previous requirement for this subsidy is that premises of a minimum size of 300m² be available. Since this is not the case, the governing body considers that it would be fraudulent to apply for the money; something they are not prepared to do. The opposition group suggested making the application and later addressing the matter of the premises.

Anti-defector Pact.

The spokesperson for the PSOE proposed that the matter of M^a Antonia Guerrero, the councillor whose defection from the PSOE resulted in the change of government be referred to the Committee that investigates these cases.

Regarding defections from one political party to another, something that is very common in local politics, there is an agreement between the major parties which is designed to prevent this. However the agreement has no legal standing.

The Mayor is of the opinion that each member of the Council should act in accordance with their conscience; that the next elections will determine who has the support of the electorate and that loyalty to the municipality should come before party discipline. The PSOE believes that party discipline is paramount and that defectors should not be tolerated. The councillor in question responded that the PSOE has not yet come to terms with the loss of power that it has suffered.

Motion rejected.

Motion that M^a Isabel Llamas be investigated: proposed by the PSOE.

This person, currently a PP councillor responsible for town planning in Torremolinos, was formerly employed as an advisor by the PSOE, when it was in power in Alcaucin. The Mayor stated that: the investigation into the affairs in Alcaucin (Operación Arcos) is still sub judicæ and that neither is it the responsibility of the current administration to investigate the matter since Sra. Llamas is not employed by the Town Hall. The PP representative, Sr. Domingo Lozano, expressed surprise that the PSOE should request an investigation into the case of someone who was employed by the previous PSOE administration.

Motion rejected.

Proposal by the PSOE that a municipal employment list be established.

The PSOE proposed the compilation of a list of unemployed people in the municipality, including details such as their family responsibilities, the length of time they have been unemployed, etc., so that the work available could be given to those most in need. The Mayor preferred the present system since the list currently in use is that supplied by the Andalusian Employment Service.

Motion rejected.

The Mayor allowed a member of the public to intervene at the end of the meeting. The constructive and pertinent comment made was as follows:

“It is the duty of the opposition party to nudge the party in power a little, as and when necessary, but what we need most in Alcaucin at the moment is that all of the parties work together in order to deal with the current serious problems such as unemployment.”