

Romsey Twinning

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2026

1. Present: Angela Bernhardt, Karen Bolton, Kathrina Gwynne, Roland Matthews, Judy Phillips, Phil Thomas (Minutes Secretary)
2. Apologies: Denise Amery, Debbie Evenhand and John Parker.
3. Minutes of the meeting on 14 November 2025: Approved, subject to the following correction: Item 9, Twin Town Updates Treviglio - Karen Bolton had given her talk at Halterworth School, not Cupernham School.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) Item 6, Membership: regarding the discussion about a potential new member, the person concerned had not so far followed up their enquiry. Roland said that he would arrange a review of the Constitution to be a future agenda item.
 - b) Item 9, Paimpol: Karen Bolton said that sadly it seemed that there were not enough primary schools in Paimpol to warrant establishing more links with schools in Romsey.
 - c) Item 11: Romsey Signal Box had accepted the loan of two framed watercolour prints of steam engines previously gifted by Paimpol. They would be displayed in their Discovery Centre.
 - d) Item 13: There had been some discussion of a twinning link with a town in Ukraine. This is being taken forward by the local Ukraine support group, with the support of the Town Council.
5. Treasurer's Report:

There was a current balance of £2863.51. Kathrina reported that she had been unsuccessful in changing the Twinning bank account. The preferred option of the Co-operative Bank required us to be registered either as a charity or with HMRC. As Kathrina was going to be away in the next period Roland said he would investigate HMRC registration and seek advice from other local organisations such as Unity and CAB.
6. Membership: No change to numbers.

7. Twinning Visits 2026-2029: Roland said that the recent vote on changes to the annual visit schedule had elicited a strong response, with 75% of members casting a vote. 36 votes had been cast in favour of the change, and 10 against. However, in Committee the main point of contention related to Battenberg, given that they had decided to cancel their visit to Romsey in 2025. Roland tabled a schedule of visits for 2026-29 which incorporated the change of a gap year. This had Battenberg coming to Romsey in 2026, a second attempt after their cancelled visit in 2025. Kathrina pointed out, however, that this pattern meant that in 2027 the two visits would both be outgoing (to Paimpol and Battenberg) and in 2028 the two visits would both be incoming (from Paimpol and Treviglio). As this could lead to undue pressure on budgets in the respective years it was agreed that we would keep to the existing pattern with Battenberg and inform them that Romsey would visit Battenberg this year, 2026. The revised schedule for 2026-29 would now be as follows:

2026	Visit from Paimpol Visit to Battenberg Visit to Treviglio
2027	Visit to Paimpol Visit from Battenberg NO visit – Treviglio
2028	NO visit – Paimpol Visit to Battenberg Visit from Treviglio
2029	Visit from Paimpol NO visit – Battenberg Visit to Treviglio

In light of the schedule above possible dates for the visits in **2026** were agreed as follows:

Paimpol incoming	1) 30 April – 4 May
	2) 7 – 11 May
	3) 9 – 13 July

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| Battenberg outgoing | 1) 3/4 - 6/7 September |
| | 2) 10/11 – 13/14 September |
| Treviglio outgoing | 1) 16 – 20 April |
| | 2) 23 – 27 April |
| | 3) 1 – 5 October |

Karen and Phil would put the suggested dates to their respective counterparts in Paimpol and Treviglio for their preferred options. Debbie would be asked to inform Battenberg of the change of schedule and to put to them the suggested dates for our visit there. A benefit of the new schedule is that Battenberg would be coming to Romsey in 2027, which marks the 40th anniversary of the twinning (Romsey had been in Battenberg for the 30th anniversary in 2017).

8. Twin Town updates: these had been covered in the item above.
9. Diary dates: the Annual Dinner would be held at the White Horse in Ampfield on 20 March. An email invitation would be sent to members, and Angela would coordinate replies. Meals would have to be pre-ordered, as before, and Angela would send out menus for this purpose 2-3 weeks in advance. It was agreed that planning of any further diary dates for this year should wait until the dates of visits were known.
10. Publicity & Website: Roland thanked Karen for the latest Newsletter. Karen re-iterated that members should send any relevant photographs of visits to her so that she could include them on the website. Karen would also investigate options for a new banner.
11. Charters display: Following a recent meeting at the Town Hall it had been agreed that we could have a display of the Twinning charters on a wall in the Mayor's Parlour. Roland would follow this up.
12. Any other business: There had been a message from Jean-Luc about a female student from Paimpol who would be working at Hilliers this Summer and was looking for lodgings.
13. Date of next meeting: Friday 6 March, 2pm at 70A Winchester Road.

