

ROMSEY TWINNING

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Friday 8 May 2026

1. **Present:** Karen Bolton, Kathrina Gwynne, Roland Matthews, (Minutes), Judy Phillips. With the agreement of those present RM recorded the meeting with a view to using AI to produce a set of minutes. Judy P agreed to take notes as a backup.
2. **Apologies.** Apologies received from AB, DE, John P, PT. Denise Amery joined the meeting later.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting on 6 March 2026. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2026 were approved.
4. **Matters arising.**
 - a) Display of Charters. RM has not yet explored framing of the Charters. His concern is that public access to the Mayor's Parlour is currently limited. However, the current layout of the Town Hall is under discussion and there might be better opportunities for display if and when these changes take place. RM to follow up in due course.
 - b) Flags. Judy P will order a French flag (5ftx3ft) for our own use and liaise with the Buildings Manager at the Town Hall regarding flying the French flag when our visitors from Paimpol are here.
 - c) Badges. Agreed that these could be given to our Paimpol visitors in July.
 - d) Annual dinner. Agreed that this was a very successful event and Roland expressed thanks to AB for organising it.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Tabled by John P in his absence as Treasurer changeover still in progress. Current balance £2.898.51 (no change from previous report).
6. **Membership Report.** Also tabled. 41 current memberships, representing 64 individuals.
7. **Twin Town updates**
 - a) **Paimpol.** KB outlined the draft programme for the Paimpol visit here from 8th to 12th July. There will be 15 visitors. Ideas for the group outing and group meal were discussed. It was agreed that the group meal would be held on the Friday (10th) and would take the form of a Skittles evening at Wellow Golf Club. Suggestions for a group outing (on the same day) included Sea City Museum, Exbury Gardens and New Forest Bus. KB would confirm the outing on her return from holiday in mid-June. A provisional budget for the visit works out at £775, which is at the higher end of the target range.
The interest in a sports exchange with Paimpol is still to be followed up.
 - b) **Battenberg.** RM said 8 people were interested in the next visit to Battenberg (mid-September), with the possibility of another 4. There is a new co-ordinator, Beate Schneider, in Battenberg who had been visiting the UK this week and RM had met her and her husband when they came over to Romsey.
 - c) **Treviglio.** 14 were interested provisionally in the Treviglio visit (1-5 October). PT will obtain firm commitments once he has investigated costs and transport options.

8. **Diary dates.** The AGM will be on Wednesday 28 October at the Age Concern Hall in Linden Road, 7.00pm refreshments for 7.15pm start. The Quiz Night, with Mike Bull as Quiz Master, will be on Saturday 14th November in the Crosfield Hall Annexe, doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. The possibility of having a table at either (or both) the One Romsey Festival on 14th June or the Mayor's Picnic on 5th July was discussed. It was agreed that just a presence with the banner and leaflets would be good publicity even if we had no other "attraction" on the table.
9. **Publicity and Website.** KB has not had the chance to chase up Lime Signs after her initial contact with them but will do so later. The traffic on the website seems to be low at present.
10. **Bristol Twinning Conference** (29 April). KB had attended this. She will give a fuller report at the next meeting but mentioned several interesting ideas, including EU funding for Town Partnership projects, and UK twinning groups sharing a coach for travel to make this method more economically viable.
11. **AOB.** Regarding the change of bank for the Twinning account, RM had sent the application to be registered with HMRC as a non-profit making organisation on 13 April. We could expect to have an initial response in 4 to 6 weeks.
RM said that with regard to the Ukraine link project proposed by Councillor Geoff Cooper there had been a Zoom meeting with a town in Ukraine who were very enthusiastic. Unfortunately, the town does not appear to be a good match as it is much larger and more industrial than Romsey so it is likely that a request to the Ukrainian Embassy for a more suitable match will need to be made. RM stressed that this is not at this stage a project for Romsey Twinning, but he was seeking clarification about who was going to drive it.
12. The date of the next meeting was not set but it was agreed that it should be held after the visit from Paimpol. **(Note: date subsequently set Friday 31 July, 2pm)**