

## **Romsey Twinning**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Present:** Roland Matthews (Chair), Denise Amery, Angela Bernhardt, Kathrina Gwynne, John Parker, Judy Phillips, Phil Thomas (Minutes)

**2. Apologies:** Karen Bolton, Debbie Evenhand

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 13 March 2025: These were taken as a true record, subject to the following **amendment**:

Item 7, final paragraph: replace the first sentence with "Kathrina is now sending out a meeting invitation from the twinning email once the date of the next meeting has been agreed."

### **4. Matters arising**

- a) The future of twinning exchanges. Roland said that he had talked this over with Jean- Luc and Claude while on the Paimpol visit. He had previously discussed it with Gian Battista in Treviglio but had not yet had any response to the proposals from Battenberg. He was waiting for the AGM to raise the matter with members. The Committee thought, however, that members should be informed sooner about possible changes to the schedule of visits, so Roland agreed to send a message out to members shortly outlining options.
- b) VE day celebrations on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Some Committee members had met in the Memorial Park and had distributed leaflets about Twinning and displayed the banner. Roland thanked them for this.
- c) Annual Dinner. The Committee agreed with Angela Bernhardt's assessment that it had been a very successful event. Roland expressed thanks to Angela for her organisational efforts.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Tabling his report John Parker said that, allowing for some debts to be paid, the Association's reserves stood at £2230. John also noted that members who went on the Paimpol visit had paid £76 more than the costs. There was some discussion as to whether we should reimburse the members or absorb the surplus into Association funds. Although the amount payable to each person would be small, it was agreed that John would ask those involved whether they wanted a refund.

### **6. Membership**

Paying memberships stood at 40, representing 63 people. There has been one new member, Lucy Greening, who is Debbie Evenhand's sister.

### **7. Twin towns**

- a) Paimpol - Roland read out Karen Bolton's written report. The visit had been very successful although there had been concerns about the length of transfer between Caen and Paimpol. It was noted also that access to some of the events had been a problem for one of our members. It was agreed issues such as access and other special needs should be considered as part of standard procedures in the planning of future exchange visits.

- b) Battenberg – Debbie was not present to give an update, but Angela had received a message from her regular host which had said they had not yet decided on their mode of transport for their visit in September. It looked likely that around a dozen Battenbergers would be coming. As Roland was going to be away at the time of the visit Denise agreed to represent the Association as Vice-Chairman.
- c) Treviglio - Phil Thomas said that there was nothing new to report as he had not had any recent direct contact with Gian Battista. John reported that the Treviglio visit to Romsey in February/March had resulted in a net cost to the Association of £613.24.
- d) Community transport: Roland reminded the meeting that, following a request from Unity early last year, he had made a submission to HCC's consultation on budget savings for 2025-26, including proposals to reduce the County's support for community transport, which would affect the Unity minibus scheme. He had wondered whether anything had come out of this as he had heard nothing since, neither from Unity nor any other source. Kathrina said that she would enquire if there was any news about changes to the future funding of Unity's transport scheme.

## **8. Romsey Festival 2026**

Roland reported that he was still pursuing ideas to bring artists or arts groups over to represent each twin town as part of next year's Festival (first two weeks of July). He had had discussions about this when he had been in Paimpol and had previously had talks with Gian Battista from Treviglio. There had been no response to date from Battenberg to his written request for suggestions so he would follow this up with Dagmar Schneider, his opposite number there.

A priority now was to identify a suitable venue in Romsey which could be used for exhibitions, displays and performances. The aim would be to have all the visiting artists in Romsey at the same time – over a long weekend perhaps – to increase the overall impact and profile of Twinning. There was a room attached to the Catholic Church which could serve as a possible venue. Roland asked members to let him have any other suggestions.

## **9. Diary Dates**

- a) Pétanque (possible summer event): Judy had established that there was no booking system for the playing area at West Wellow (Hatches Farm). There were also issues with parking. Kathrina said she would check if the Wheatsheaf in Braishfield still had a boules area. Unless Kathrina's enquiry produced something positive it was agreed not to proceed with this idea on this occasion.
- b) Quiz Night: to be held at the Crosfield Hall Annexe on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Roland asked that we spend more time organising the raffle so as to make sure we have some decent prizes. Kathrina agreed to co-ordinate the gathering of raffle prizes and said she would ask RAODS for a donation of show tickets. Everyone was asked to use their contacts to obtain good raffle prizes and to liaise with Kathrina over this. When approaching potential prize donors we should explain that funds raised would be going towards meeting the costs of bringing twin town artists over to next year's Romsey Festival.

**10. AGM:** to be held at Linden Road Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> September. John explained that there was now an important Council meeting that day so he might not be able to attend. Roland said that

he would be proposing a small change to the Constitution, to be presented to the AGM, which would increase the flexibility for fixing the date of the AGM.

Roland hoped that the meeting could feature a short presentation of photos from the past year's visits.

#### **11. Website and publicity:**

Roland read out Karen's written report. She had been talking to Steve Hunter about displaying photographs on the website. They had agreed a way forward which would probably involve storing the photos on Google Drive. This would take some time to set up but Karen hoped to make a start over the summer.

The matter of new brochures and/or banner would be discussed at a future meeting when Karen was present.

- a) Newsletter: Karen asked for items for the summer newsletter which would go out in late July or early August. John suggested that it could include something about support for the local Ukrainian community.

**12. Any other business:** John had received notification from Bransgore French Twinning Association of a summer BBQ to be held there on Sunday 13 July, 4-7pm.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2 pm.