

Meeting Minutes – Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:30 AM at the Rugby Olympique Club Kemperle (ROCK) Clubhouse

Attendees:

- Christina WHITTY, Mayor of Liskeard
- David BRAITWAITE, Deputy Mayor of Liskeard
- Simon CASSIDY, President and Twinning Advisor
- Jane PASCOE, Town Councillor and Cornwall Council Representative
- Christine HENWOOD, President of the Royal British Legion
- Paul PASCOE
- Simon PASCOE
- Mael PASCOE
- Peter PASCOE
- Mrs. PASCOE
- Stephen VINSON, General Secretary of Liskeard

- Michaël QUERNEZ, Mayor of Quimperlé
- Pascale DOUINEAU, Deputy Mayor for Community Life, Gender Equality, Twinning and Cooperation
- Frédérique DIETER-PUSTOCH, Town Councillor
- Stéphane DIMEY, President of the Quimperlé Chess Club
- André DOUINEAU
- Jacky HAMONIAUX, President of the Kemperle Badminton Club
- Pascal LE PELLEC
- Gwénaél MERRIEN, Secretary of ROCK
- Fabrice HELLEGOUARCH, Community Life Coordinator (Minutes Writer)

The Quimperlé Rugby Club warmly welcomed the French and British delegations to its clubhouse.

Reviving the Twinning Committee

Ms. Pascale Douineau expressed the desire to recreate a dedicated twinning association to revive exchanges and centralize local initiatives. She asked her British counterparts about their vision and expectations.

Mr. Simon Cassidy confirmed that the town of Liskeard shares this intention. Since the dissolution of their twinning association, the municipality has maintained continuity. They now wish to re-establish an association to collaborate with the future French committee.

These committees, in coordination with the municipalities, would aim to:

- Encourage clubs and associations to participate in exchanges
- Facilitate connections between French and British partners
- Coordinate initiatives

Desire to Expand the Partnership?

Liskeard expressed interest in connecting with Geilenkirchen, the German town twinned with Quimperlé, to consider trilateral meetings. Liskeard is also twinned with a Ukrainian town.

School Exchanges: Observations and Prospects

For Mr. Simon Cassidy, the priority is to rebuild ties between the two communities through schools and children. However, both towns face challenges in engaging educational institutions. Organizing exchanges requires significant teacher involvement, which limits their commitment. Some reluctance is also noted among school principals.

Ms. Frédérique Dieter-Pustoch reminded that in France, exchanges are possible from age 12 (middle and high school). The goal is not necessarily to move students but to foster European awareness and mutual discovery. Digital correspondence could be a good first step. Any willing teacher can lead the project, regardless of their subject.

In each town, a meeting with school principals could be organized to promote twinning. In Quimperlé, the Community Life and Citizenship Department could initiate this effort. An online symposium for interested teachers could also be considered.

Schools in Liskeard:

- 1 high school (ages 11–18) – approx. 1,100 students
- 2 primary schools
- 4 village schools

Mr. Stéphane Dimey shared the example of Kerneuzec High School, where two teachers created an association with students to fund school trips to South America. He emphasized that every project depends on teacher involvement.

Mr. Jacky Hamoniaux suggested leveraging sports programs (e.g., badminton at Jules Ferry Middle School and Notre-Dame de Kerbertrand, football) to initiate school exchanges.

Creating the New Twinning Committee

Mr. André Douineau, Secretary of the Quimperlé–Geilenkirchen Twinning Committee, shared his experience. He noted that while friendly relations work well, school exchanges remain difficult. The committee brings together other groups (firefighters, farmers, football), but is only minimally involved in their activities.

He stressed the importance for future Franco-British committees to centralize initiatives and engage youth.

Shared Goal:

Recreate the twinning committees by the end of 2025 and consider signing (or updating) the twinning charter.



The committees will be independent but will include municipal elected officials as ex officio members. Until their creation, Steve Vinson (Liskeard) and Fabrice Hellegouarch (Quimperlé) will serve as contact points.

Both towns commit to financially supporting the committees until self-funding initiatives are established. Mr. Simon Pascoe contacted the British Embassy in Paris regarding available funding. A call for projects was open, but the deadline (end of September) was too close for this year. The committees will need to be dynamic to qualify for future funding.

The Mayor of Quimperlé asked the Community Life Department to contact AFCCRE (French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions) to identify available calls for projects.

Mr. David Braitwaite, President of FORUM (Liskeard's merchants association), will propose adding the twinning committee to the agenda of their next meeting to consider local support.

Frequency of Official Exchanges

Both towns wish to establish an annual frequency for official exchanges.