

St Martha Parish Council
Clerk's Report for the meeting on 11 September 2025

1. Dates and venue of the SMPC meetings up to and including May 2026

Chilworth C of E Infant School have confirmed the following dates for meetings starting at 7 p.m.

- Thursday 15th January 2026
- Thursday 12th February 2026
- Thursday 12th March 2026
- Thursday 9th April 2026
- Thursday 14th May 2026

ADDITIONALLY, please note that the December 2025 meeting date is now **Tuesday 16th December 2025**

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th May 2025

A message was received from a parishioner - *I refer you to page 754 of the Parish Council mins 2025-90 (b):*

Footpath 469: It was noted that this footpath is designated as a 'BOAT' – Byway Open to All Traffic.

Confirmation was then received from John Baker Countryside Access Officer -West Surrey:

Notwithstanding the Parish Council minutes, Footpath 469 St Martha is a footpath and definitely not a BOAT.

3. The PC Website – a report from Emma regarding Perch CMS:

Why We Moved Away from Perch CMS

When your website was originally set up, Perch CMS was an excellent choice—lightweight, easy to use, and ideal for small to medium websites. At the time, it was actively maintained by a small but dedicated development team and had a strong user base.

However, since then, a lot has changed:

- ***Perch CMS has not received any major updates since May 2021***, when version 3.2 was released.
- *The company behind Perch was small and has since been dissolved. Although some users attempted to continue supporting it, they were ultimately unable to sustain it.*
- ***There has been no visible development or roadmap since 2022***, and the official forums and support channels are largely inactive.

Why This Presents a Risk

- ***No security updates:*** Outdated platforms are vulnerable to security risks, especially as PHP and hosting environments continue to evolve.
- ***No support:*** If anything breaks or stops working, there's no reliable support channel or documentation updates to turn to.
- ***No future development:*** With no updates on the horizon, any functionality issues or new requirements would become increasingly difficult (or impossible) to address.

Why the Site Was Moved

*Given these risks, I made the decision to **move the site off Perch CMS and manage updates manually instead**. This ensures your website:*

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- *Remains compatible with modern web hosting and technologies*
- *Avoids the risk of unsupported security vulnerabilities*
- *Is easier to maintain, update, and troubleshoot as needed*

An update from Emma on 09/09/25

Emma has set up a simple Quick Update page for the website. This allows the Clerk to post next meeting details and upload supporting documents into an Urgent Notice box on the homepage. Emma will continue to update and organise the permanent council pages, moving any documents across as needed.

We hope this will provide a straightforward way to meet statutory deadlines without the complexity or cost of a full content management system. We will monitor how it goes in practice and report back. This initial work has not been charged for by Emma.

4. Damage to the Bus Shelter Roof opposite P/Arms

Zurich Insurance claim number 20-50-784553

Following the reply from Zurich that as the b/shelter is not listed as an 'additional items' on our Policy, a claim cannot be made for repairs. I have emailed Zurich to clarify this position and in relation to all the PC's assets.

Email from Matthew Murray – Zurich Digital Trading Underwriter

"I've just been in touch with David from our claims team who has said you were looking to amend your All Risks cover to better reflect the assets owned by the Parish Council.

If you can forward me your asset list I can get this done as soon as possible. Should you have any questions please let me know. I'm happy to help with any other queries you may have".

5. Severnside Defibs - a supplier of Defibrillators and Defibrillator sessions across the UK.

We are excited to announce that we now supply Public Access Bleed Control Kits to accompany your community defibrillators - something that has become very popular with Town, Parish and Community Councils up and down the UK.

Designed to provide immediate, life-saving support in cases of severe bleeding and trauma, these kits are simple to use by members of the public and can truly make the difference between life and death while waiting for professional help to arrive. You don't need any specialist skills to use the kits and emergency call handlers will talk through the rescuer on how to use it correctly.

Just like a defibrillator, they are built for ease of use and maximum impact. They can be stored perfectly alongside a defibrillator in a cabinet which makes them available at a moment's notice.

These vital kits are just £85 +VAT with free delivery.

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