

St Martha Parish Council
Clerk's Report for the meeting on 12th March 2026

1. Additional Dog Waste Bins - in the Gunpowder Mills Site

From: Mary Ann Edwards Senior Countryside Access Officer (Maintenance & Enforcement - on 24/02/26

I'm afraid SCC Countryside Access do not supply or maintain dog bins. It's really for you as the PC to decide where you would like your bin and arrange for supply, to check with the landowner that they are happy for it to be installed in the suggested location and then for you to liaise with GBC over collection of the waste. The only involvement here for us would be to ensure that there wouldn't be any hazard to the public depending on where you wish to locate the bin. I can see from your photos and the map that the bridleway is carried on a wide track and there would be plenty of room for public users, so if the bin was installed far back on the verge at the very edge of the path, then we wouldn't have an issue. The W3W reference puts the bin at the point marked with a red spot which is outside the GBC ownership (shaded). If this is the case, you would need to contact the landowner to seek their approval to install on their land – it appears to be within the Lockner Farm holding. Unfortunately I don't have contact details for the landowner. If you decide that the preferred location is within the GBC landownership then as long as they are happy for the bin to be installed on their land, and applying the guidance above then again that would be fine with us.

I'm sorry if there's been some confusion here but hope it's now clearer. But if you still need some assistance with this, it might be easier to discuss on the phone so please do call me on 07773 225513.

From Graham Brown – Parish Councillor:

The only title deed I can find for Lockner seems to show that the driveway belongs to Lockner Farm...

2. Renovation of the Bus Shelter opposite Lockner Farm

This is now completed. I consider that the lockable N/Board should have a (largish) 'Parish Council Notices' heading at the (inside) top of the board.

And the questions now are:

- a) **the removal of the pile of soil, do Members wish me to approach Ian Watson – our gardener at the War Memorial to move it.?**
- b) A letter – or a personal approach...(?) to Mr & Mrs Heard re removing the arisings from behind the shelter – when their hedge is next cut – to preserve the renovations at the back.

3. Local Government Reorganisation:

- Two new unitary authorities will form in Surrey, focusing on a smooth transition without immediate changes. 90 seats in the West – 65 Wards.
- Elections in May 2026: Shadow authorities will begin decision-making, with statutory officers appointed to guide new councils. The pre-election period starts on 24th March. The Chair of

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Annual Parish Assemblies - after 24/03 - must be aware that Cllrs should not be allowed to promote any one particular Party – or on-going Parish topics.

- Office and Staffing Decisions: Existing offices will be used initially, with minimal role changes for staff below senior leadership.
- Community Governance Review: Final decisions on a parish council will be made by the shadow authority after the March 2026 meeting.
- New Planning System Begins March 2026: Councils must submit plans to comply with the government's revamped framework, affecting local planning practices.
- Code of Conduct Support: Training videos and guidelines are being provided to parish councils to help manage code of conduct issues effectively.