**St Martha Parish Council**
**Parish Council Meeting Thursday 26 November 2026**

## Chair's Report

### 400 Years of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills

Another excellent celebration of 400 years of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills. This time on Sunday 15 November at Chilworth Village Hall. The newly discovered photographs of the Mills from 1864, with narrative, were on display, including other interesting material, and a talk about them given by Councillor Debbie Toynbee and Tracy Heard. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this such a lovely afternoon and helped with the teas and other fun events.

### Chilworth proposed traffic calming and road safety measures

The agreed comments from St Martha Parish Council were sent to SCC as part of the public consultation that ended on 13 November. Parish Councillors also attended the SCC drop-in sessions at the Village Hall and undertook observations on two separate occasions at pick-up time outside Chilworth School.

### Rural Roar

Since the last PC Meeting, Albury Parish Councillor Andi McCann (Environment and Climate lead) got in touch to see if St Martha PC was supporting the Rural Roar campaign. I said that the PC at its October meeting signed the Rural Roar Resolution and has circulated this to Shalford CC, Wonersh PC and Albury PC. As yet, Albury hasn't adopted it but Andi hopes it will. The new Clerk to Albury PC is, Caroline Burkart.

### Surrey Association of Local Councils AGM and Conference

I attended the SALC AGM and Conference on 5 November and circulated notes summing up the presentations. *These were circulated to Parish Councillors on 10 November 2026.* It was a very full day with lots of information to digest but the main action points for St Martha PC are:

- Asset and service transfer journey – enquire from GBC/SCC about the continuity of overseeing the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills during and after transition (Councillor Bob Hughes)

- Digitalising the AGAR and the new internal audit requirements will mean a new Engagement Letter with the internal auditor
- In the case of St Martha PC, allow £400-£500 extra in the 2027/28 Budget for the increased in-depth audit requirements
- PCs to consider signing up to Civility and Respect Pledge
- Keep under review the way we communicate what we do for our residents and demonstrate our value, particularly with regards to the upcoming elections *(Agenda Item 15(b))*
- Sexual Harassment Risk Assessment and Policy *(Agenda Item 18(d))*
- As from 1 January employers must produce a standard written Statement informing existing employees of their right to join a Union. PCs need to do this from 5 April 2027

**Remembrance Sunday**

I attended the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Chilworth War Memorial, along with two other Parish Councillors, and laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Michael Lunnon, a past Parish Councillor, has just stopped housing the Silent Soldier in his garage and putting it up and down each year. He has done so for a number of years and I thanked him on behalf of the Council. Councillor Graham Brown has kindly agreed to be in charge of the Silent Soldier from now onwards.