



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Primary School, Brereton**

1. **Members Present/Apologies** - Cllrs Charlesworth, Clews, Dixon, Fern, Lindsay (Chair), Matusiak, Morphet  
**Members of the Public:** 4
2. **Minutes** - It was resolved (0905/01) to approve and have Cllr Lindsay sign the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2021 as a true and correct record.
3. **Annual Report** - The Chair, Cllr Lindsay gave the following report:
  - What a great place Brereton is! Due to great work by many people in the parish we were able to Keep Brereton Whole. We retained Bluebell Green and the Dunkirk Farm area in Brereton and resolved the confusion about which parish the houses on the south side of Holmes Chapel Road in Brereton Heath are in. So, we welcome residents of new houses at Bluebell Green and Dunkirk and the existing residents of the 11 houses on Holmes Chapel Road who will transfer from our friends at Somerford Parish.
  - On 27th April, Cheshire East concluded their review of the way parish and town councils are organised. A 12-week public consultation was part of the process. It was very pleasing to see the 275 comments made by many of our residents on the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary issue and the strong response to the questionnaire on the Brereton/ Somerford boundary issue. It is also good to see so many comments saying how well Brereton Parish Council meets their needs. Once Cheshire East had worked through the 5,000 responses, covering the over 100 parishes and towns, a set of recommendations was thoroughly discussed and agreed by two committees before being agreed after a two-hour long Council meeting of all 82 Cheshire East Councillors. My thanks to the parish councillors and others who delivered flyers explaining the issues and to Brereton Parish Community Interest Group for their online information. Special thanks to Katrina Morphet for producing our press releases and other published material.
  - The year was again impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic although we were able to hold all our monthly meetings in person at the school. The pandemic has disrupted many processes including those of Cheshire East Council who have backlogs in many areas.
  - High traffic speeds and road safety continue to be of great concern throughout our parish. During the year a workgroup of John Charlesworth, Jacqui Dixon, Steve Fern, Ros Middleweek and myself was formed to look at a way to list the many road safety issues and to determine a structured and transparent process to put these in a priority order. Good progress is being made and my thanks to Steve Bourne for his help also. When we have done this work we will be able to use this to allocate effort and funds efficiently.
  - The parish council welcomes the new draft Cheshire East Speed Management Policy which follows government guidelines to give more protection to walkers, cyclists and horse riders and

more emphasis on the impact of traffic on the environment through which it passes. We input to the consultation that more emphasis should be given to rural areas which should be as well protected as the towns. The results of the consultation are awaited.

- With the help of Cllr John Wray we secured Cheshire East Ward Member funding and added our own funds, for village gateway signage at the 30mph speed limit sign approaching Brereton Green from the west. The signage will be designed to alert drivers that a built-up area lies ahead and to take extra care. This is a first for us and the location was chosen due to the proximity of the primary school. We hope the signage will be installed soon.
- We continue to oppose Cheshire East's decision not to replace the Congleton Household Recycling facility. We believe this decision is bad for the environment by discouraging recycling and causing unnecessarily long, wasteful journeys to the remaining sites. We are grateful for the work being done by Cllr Robert Douglas of Congleton Town Council to try to persuade the borough council to change its mind and we are supporting him where we can.
- Preparations are in hand for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. A workgroup was set up of John Charlesworth, Ros Middleweek, Hannah Sample and representatives of the Brereton Parish Community Interest Group and our two churches. The new parish precept for 2022/23 includes £2,500 for the jubilee, allowing the parish council to pay for several events. A flyer was recently produced and distributed to all homes in the parish to communicate the events planned.
- In August Mark Elves resigned as Vice Chair and as a councillor. I would like to thank Mark for his hard work and valuable input over his time with the parish council. In January Hannah Clews was appointed as Vice Chair. I am sure Hannah will help to keep us on track! In November Steve Bourne resigned and Jacqui Dixon joined us. Thanks to Steve for his great input and welcome to Jacqui who is already making an impact.
- In conclusion I would like to thank our clerk, Ros Middleweek and the Vice Chairs, Mark Elves and Hannah Clews for their support. Thanks also to Jill Matusiak who stepped in to do a great job chairing two of our monthly meetings when I was away, and no vice chair was available. I would also like to thank all my fellow councillors who volunteer their talents and time so freely to the Brereton community. Finally, my thanks to our Ward Councillor John Wray, for his support to our work and the many hours he puts in to cover the 12 parishes in his Brereton Rural ward.

**4. Guest Speaker – Kerry Mclean, Head of Brereton Primary School, gave an update on the school year.**

- The number of pupils has once again grown from 160 to 206. Reception will be full in September 2023 and a waiting list already forming. Children from Bluebell Green are amongst the new intake and the catch area ranges out to Nantwich and Whitchurch.
- It's been a busy term with SATs, a visit from the Bishop of Stockport and Ofsted in for two days.
- Broadband capacity and IT provision is an area for improvement.
- A baby and toddler group was started this term with 15 children in attendance and they are making good use of the forest school.
- Year 6 have written poems for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and given out in the community.
- The PTA are keen for a Rose Queen celebration this year.
- And finally, many thanks for the offer from Brereton Parish Council to buy the children some new books, they have written a wish list of reading for pleasure books.

**5. Parish Resolutions** – a member of Brereton Community Interest Group requested that the parish council consider re-visiting the need for a community hub and asked that some money for a consultant be set aside in this coming years' precept.

**6. Open Forum** – there were no further questions from members of the public.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:28.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Andrew Lindsay – Chair  
Brereton Parish Council**