



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Primary School, Brereton**

1. **Members Present/Apologies** - Cllrs Andrews, Castle, Charlesworth, Clews, Dixon, Lindsay (Chair), Matusiak, Mellers
Members of the Public: 4
2. **Minutes** - It was resolved (1505/01/APM) to approve and have Councillor Lindsay sign the minutes of the meeting held on May 22, 2022 as a true and correct record.
3. **Annual Report** - The Chair, Councillor Lindsay gave the following report:
 - Last year saw the sad passing of our late Queen Elizabeth II and the subsequent succession, and then glorious coronation of King Charles III.
 - Brereton celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen in style with some wonderful events which were attended by so many people in the parish. It was so good to see the parish council, the school, St Oswald's church and the Community Interest Group join with others to make these events so successful. A lasting feature is the flagpole in the Community Space, provided by the parish council, which will allow the union flag and maybe others to be flown on many occasions. I am sure the children of the school also enjoyed the lovely bookmarks donated by the parish council.
 - A Platinum Jubilee bench was installed at the southeastern corner entrance to the Local Nature Reserve. Although provided by the parish council, Hannah Clews worked with the nature reserve staff to allow it to be on reserve land so overcoming safety concerns caused by the nearby traffic. We hope this bench will provide a suitable place for people to rest when using Brereton Heath Lane or when enjoying the wildlife of the reserve.
 - Just this last month, the coronation of King Charles III was marked by a number of events again with strong input from the same organisations mentioned above. The children at the school again received a small gift from the parish council to mark the occasion and the Sunday was such a wonderful sunny day for the street parties. It is hoped that the push by the King to support volunteering will have a lasting effect to encourage more people to support the great work that already goes on by so many dedicated people. My thanks to John Charlesworth for leading this work for the parish council on both the Jubilee and the Coronation.
 - The new year will see Brereton Parish enlarged slightly by the addition of the 11 houses on Holmes Chapel Road who will transfer from our friends at Somerford Parish.
 - At the recent election, the number of councillors has gone up from 8 to 9 and it is pleasing to see all those places now filled.

- High traffic speeds and road safety continue to be of great concern throughout our parish. It was disappointing that the village gateway on School Lane, southwest of Brereton Green has still not been installed. 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.
- The parish council welcomes the new 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 hope that this will help us make more progress on the road safety issues which concern us so much.
- 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.
- The proposals by Sibelco for a silica sand quarry on the eastern border of our parish have caused some concern. The parish council persuaded Sibelco to hold a physical presentation of their proposals to increase public awareness rather than just the online presentation. The next step is likely to be a planning application in the near future and Brereton Parish Council will fully engage with that process to make sure that all the concerns of the local population are put forward forcibly and a proper balance is struck between the national need for silica sand and the safety and interests of the local population.
- In March, Katrina Morphet resigned after 8 years as a councillor. I would like to thank Katrina for her great input in that time and, in particular for acting as our "press officer" so well. Thanks to Jacqui Dixon for picking up this task.
- Alun Andrews joined in November and is already making a strong input. Mandy Wearne joined in April and Rachel Mellers and Nicolas Castle were elected on 4th May. I welcome them all and look forward to an exciting new year with the extended council made up of these new councillors who I am sure will benefit from the extensive experience of Jill Matusiak to make a well balanced and strong team.

In conclusion I would like to thank our clerk, Ros Middleweek and the Vice Chair Hannah Clews for their support. 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 – Natasha Wood, Assistant Head Teacher of Brereton Primary School, informed the council of the thinking behind the proposed sensory garden at the primary school.

- Natasha explained that the school council had drawn a 'map' of their community highlighting the different and sometime complex social needs of the children. The idea of a sensory garden came up as a respite for those that need space and calm away from others.
- The school have approached various local organisations for financial and practical donations.
- So far, they've had help with strimming and clearing the proposed site and one donation has gone towards hard landscaping aggregates.
- They are looking at erecting a summer house or water feature in the area and ask if the parish council would consider a donation.

5. **Parish Resolutions** – none.

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 19:21.

Signed:

Date:

**Andrew Lindsay – Chair
Brereton Parish Council**