



Minutes of the Meeting of Brereton Parish Council

held on Monday June 17, 2024

at Brereton Primary School

1. Apologies

It was resolved **(0624/01)** to receive apologies from Councillor Clews

Members Present - Councillors Andrews, Castle, Charlesworth, Dixon, Lindsay, Matusiak, Mellers, Wearne (Chair),

Members of the Public – 2

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public Forum

- A member of the public asked about several planning applications, being App/RO660/C/23/3330021, 24/0796c and 23/1928w and whether the outcome of the decisions had been received. 23/1928W it was noted is still awaiting a report from the Environment Agency. 24/0976c has had two deadline dates that have so far passed.
- He also inquired about the speed management initiative within the Brereton Heath Lane area which is to be discussed under 9.1 of the agenda. The residents in the area have expressed disappointment at the outcome of the 'scoring' carried out by Cheshire East and request that the Parish Council look at rescoring the criteria for a speed reduction in the area.
- Another resident informed the Council of a road traffic accident at Wards Lane on June 4. He went on to report the overgrown hedge alongside the Bear's Head as well as near The Smithy and vegetation overgrown at the A50 style.

4. Council Minutes

It was resolved **(0624/02)** for the Chair to sign the Minutes of May 20, 2024, confirming them as a true and correct representation of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

- It was resolved **(0624/03)** to receive the Clerk's Report, Appendix A.
- Councillor Mellers still to look at the copyright of the parish council Brereton bear logo with a view to registering it.

- Councillor Charlesworth is still chasing a quote from Ringway Jacobs for the supply and install 7 replacement parish boundary signs following Teams meetings and site identification. It was resolved **(0624/04)** for Councillor Charlesworth to refer the matter back to Cheshire East because of the lack of progress and ask that they follow up or we withdraw our deposit and source another contractor.
- Councillors Charlesworth, Lindsay and Mellers still to liaise and provide initial thoughts at the next meeting about our input to the Local Plan consultation due to be issued on 1st July.

6. Chair's Report

6.1 Councillor Wearne set her plans for reviewing the governance of the Council and is meeting with the Clerk pre and post meetings and looking at the prioritisation of agenda items. She has attended Chalc's New Chair training course where Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were highlighted as a key area of governance. It was resolved **(0624/05)** for Councillors Andrews, Castle and Wearne to review the council Standing Orders.

Councillor Wray joined the meeting

6.2 Councillor Lindsay reported on his initial thoughts on having looked at the new Financial Regulations as issued by Nalc and compared it with our existing. The outline is the same but lengthier reflecting the new legal requirements. It was resolved **(0624/06)** for Councillor Lindsay to work with the Clerk on reviewing the council Financial Regulations.

- Councillor Wearne is looking at how Councillors engage and wishes to conduct annual councillor survey to review effectiveness and highlight any need for training and development. She would also like to meet Councillors on a 1:1 basis to enable the creation of an outline for the role of the Chair and the role of the Councillors. Councillors were asked to update their profiles if needed. It was resolved **(0624/07)** to revisit the role of Deputy Chair as a later date

7. Finance

7.1 Bank Reconciliation – it was resolved **(0624/08)** to receive the month's bank account and expenditure against budget reports as presented by the Clerk.

7.2 Schedule of Payments – it was resolved **(0624/09)** to approve the following invoices for payment as presented by the Clerk below.

Staff Pension	209.91
Staff Salary	729.04
HMRC	8.28
The Storage Team	28.80
The Food Bank	99.02
Security Shredding	65.00
Mrs N Walsh (Int. Auditor)	150.00
	1,290.05
Staff Salary	729.04
Staff Pension	209.91
HMRC	8.28
	947.23
	3,184.51

It was resolved **(0624/10)** to receive notice from Cheshire West and Chester Pension Scheme regarding a late payment and ensure that in future the Clerk is paid in a timelier fashion when meeting dates don't align to payroll dates. This will be achieved via two factor signatories on the online banking app where required.

7.3 Year End Accounts – it was resolved **(0624/11)** to approve the accounts for the financial year end 2023/24 having been ratified by an internal auditor. It was further resolved **(0624/12)** to approve and sign the annual governance and accountability statement and submit to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn. The Clerk will advertise the public rights notice allowing any member of the public to inspect the accounts between the dates of July 1 to August 9, 2024.

8. Planning Applications/Decision/Inquiry

8.1 App/RO660/C/23/3330021, it was noted that outcome of the enforcement notice appeal by the resident held on June 6 has not been released yet.

- 23/4800c Beech House, CW12 4SZ has been approved with conditions. It was resolved **(0624/13)** to receive a letter of disappointment from the neighbouring property.
- 24/1096c Spaces & Places Self Storage, Davenport Lane, Arclid app/c

9. Working Priorities

9.1 Speed Management Group – Council discussed the outcome of a point scoring exercise recently carried out with Cheshire East Highways around the safety of speed in the parish. Cheshire East have prioritised 6 out of the 200 submissions they received for improvements to be carried out during this financial year. In the meantime, with the help of local residents, the council will aim to gather more evidence to build a case for the next submission.

9.2 Community Speed Watch Group – Councillor Andrews informed the meeting about the creation of the group and the aim of using education to “slow the community down” by actively carrying out regular speed watch sessions. He gave the statistics to date and an update on the number of Councillors and residents who have received training by our local PCSO.

9.3 Community Engagement Group – Councillor Castle updated the meeting about attending the upcoming Brereton Rose Day where Councillors will host a table to engage with parishioners over what the council do and who to contact. The purchase of roller banners and some publicity literature was approved at the last meeting.

It was resolved **(0624/14)** to accept the resignation of Councillor Jill Matusiak after 17 years serving as a Councillor for the Parish of Brereton. The Chair thanked Councillor Matusiak for her length of dedicated service. The Clerk will inform Democratic Services at Cheshire East who will advertise the vacancy accordingly.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, July 29, 2024.

The meeting closed at 21:04

Signed:
Councillor Wearne
Chair, Brereton Parish Council

Date: