



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Primary School, Brereton**

1. **Members Present/Apologies** - Cllrs Castle, Charlesworth, Dixon, Lindsay (Chair), Matusiak, Mellers, Wearne

Apologies: Cllrs Andrews, Clews

Members of the Public: 2

2. **Minutes** - It was resolved **(1505/01/APM)** to approve and have Councillor Lindsay sign the minutes of the meeting held on May 15, 2023 as a true and correct record.

3. **Annual Report** - The Chair, Councillor Lindsay gave the following report:

- It has been good to have a full complement of 9 councillors for the last year.
- High traffic speeds and road safety continue to be of great concern throughout our parish. A workgroup of BPC councillors studied the borough's speed management policy and actively engaged with Cheshire East is reviewing several roads and lanes in the parish against scoring criteria. This increased our understanding of the borough's policies and processes and made some good contacts with officers of Cheshire East. We wait to hear if any of our roads will score high enough to get on the borough's short list for action. 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. The location was chosen due to the proximity of the primary school. We hope the signage will be installed soon.
- The speed watch initiative has been restarted and on a number of occasions, the parish's speed monitoring device has been used to check on speeds on School Lane. It is hoped to extend this to other areas such as the A54 in Brereton Heath where we are allowed to carry out these checks.
- We continued 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. Alongside this Cheshire East are mothballing some other sites due to budgetary issues.
- The proposals by Sibelco for a silica sand quarry on the eastern border of our parish have caused concern. BPC objected to the planning application as it risked damage to the Bagmere Ramsar site as well as other issues. Subsequently Sibelco modified their proposals, and we await an assessment by the Environment agency of the revised plans.

- Good progress is being made on replacing our parish boundary signs and locations for these have been agreed.
- Representations were made to Cheshire East for the Warding boundary review, and it was accepted that all of Brereton Parish should be in one Ward of Cheshire East. This has now gone forward to the Boundary Commission who are the decision makers.
- I would like to thank Jill Matusiak for standing in as chair on two occasions when I was away.
- Hannah Clews is stepping down as Vice Chair and will not put her name forward for this role next year. I would like to thank Hannah for her very valuable contribution in the role which is greatly appreciated. Of course, Hannah will continue as a councillor which will allow her to continue to contribute to the working of the parish council.
- I would also like to thank our Clerk, Ros Middleweek and 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.
- After consulting with fellow councillors and taking account of my other time commitments, I have decided to not put my name forward for chair next year. I have enjoyed my time as chair and look forward to continuing to serve the people of Brereton as a councillor.

4. Guest Speaker – The Reverend Sandi Fisher, St Oswald's' Church, informed the council about the work of the emergency foodbank based out of St Oswald's Church, Brereton.

- The foodbank is operated on a part-time basis, as and when required. Referrals come through the school or church and currently it is a challenge to keep up.
- Over the year the foodbank has provided support for between 30 and 100 different families. The exist on a small amount of cash for fresh produce and donations of store cupboard goods through the school drop off box and appeals in church. A local egg supplier donates fresh eggs.

Reverend Fisher went on to thank the parish council for their donation to the maintenance of the graveyard.

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 in turn, Councillors thanks the Chair for his time and commitment as Chair. The meeting closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:24.

Signed:
Andrew Lindsay – Chair
Brereton Parish Council

Date: