



Minutes of the Meeting of Brereton Parish Council

held on Monday January 26, 2026

at Brereton Primary School

1. Apologies

It was resolved (**0125/01**) to receive apologies from Councillor Wootton due to family bereavement.

Members Present - Councillors Andrews, Calderbank, Castle, Charlesworth, Clarkson, Dixon, Mellers, Wearne (Chair), Wray (Cheshire East Ward Councillor)

Members of the Public – seven

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public Forum

- A member of the public has requested a traffic and speed census be carried out on Back Lane and suggested a change to the exit of back Lane onto the A50 to allow two vehicles to exit at the same time.
- He also objected to the planning application 25/4741/PIP being outside of the settlement boundary.
- Councillor Robert Douglas of Congleton Town Council informed the meeting about the Cheshire Police proposal to cut the amount of PCSOs from 87 to 27 due to funding. The Police and Crime Commission have negotiated dropping the level to 37 and a public consultation was put out which ended on January 23. He also reported on the Environment and Communities Committee which will meet on January 29 to discuss a proposition to extend the booking system at household waste sites in the hope of more people using the facility.

4. Council Minutes

It was resolved (**0126/02**) for the Chair to sign the Minutes of December 15, 2025, confirming them as a true and correct representation of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

- 5.1.** It was resolved (**0126/03**) to receive the Clerk's Report, Appendix A. The Clerk informed the meeting about BPCIG's proposed AGM/event to mark twenty years of the group and where they intend to ask the community for ideas for the future.

5.2. Chair's Report - Councillor Wearne has updated the Standing Orders to incorporate the Finance and Scrutiny working group headed by Councillor Charlesworth. The new role of Deputy, taken by Councillor Andrews, has also been included, and both Councillors Charlesworth and Andrews have reviewed the Terms of Reference which will be presented by the Chair at the March meeting.

5.3. Councillor Wray's Report – Councillor Wray reported on attendance at a budget meeting where proposals of an increase to the budget were discussed, the initial thought was increase by 10% but will more likely be 4.99%. He spoke about the discussion of the Cheshire Pension Scheme taking a pension holiday to help with over expenditure.

5.4. Any further business – Councillor Castle proposed that the parish council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner following the recent consultation to express the concerns of the community. It was resolved **(0126/04)** to send a letter drafted by Councillor Castle.

- Councillor Clarkson reported on her attendance at Sandbach Town Council who are reviewing their neighbourhood plan and asked neighbouring parishes for their attendance and feedback on their proposed policies, the main one being, protecting the green gaps between parishes. Councillor Clarkson will circulate the relevant policies to Councillors.

6. Finance

6.1 Bank Reconciliation – it was resolved **(0126/05)** to receive the month's bank account and expenditure against budget reports as presented by the Clerk.

6.2 Schedule of Payments – it was resolved **(0126/06)** to approve the following invoices for payment as presented by the Clerk below.

Staff Salary (December)	773.57
Staff Pension	225.77
HMRC	79.67
Storage Team (DD)	28.80
Storage Team (DD)	28.80
Urban Imprint	900.00
Cllr Andrews Speed Watch	11.90
Cllr Mellors Comms & Engage	95.85
Staff Salary (January)	773.57
Staff Pension	225.77
HMRC	79.47
	3223.17

7. Planning Applications/Decision/Inquiry

7.1 25/4741/PIP Permission in Principle Land Off Back Lane, Brereton – it was resolved **(0126/07)** to object to the application on the grounds that under HOU04 Self Build Scheme in the Brereton Neighbourhood Development Plan, it fails to meet the criteria. Under HOU04 b) the proposed site does not adjoin a settlement boundary and therefore the proposed construction is in open countryside.

8. Working Priorities

8.1 Community Speed Watch Group – nothing was scheduled during the month of January because of the weather, so Councillor Andrews presented a review of the year.

	Year 2025 by	location		
First	15/01/2025			
Location	checks	Count	Offenders	
2025 Tot	37	5257	272	5.2%
St Oz	5	164	3	1.8%
Bus Stop	2	693	4	0.6%
Broomfields	14	3763	47	1.2%
School Lane	16	637	218	34.2%

8.2 Community Engagement Group – the group informed the meeting that the second bench location will be named ‘Catch up Corner’ and are progressing with finding quotes and contractors. The Spring bulletin is being drafted and a leaflet distribution facilitator being sourced. Dates of proposed events for 2026 will be provided at the next meeting along with the group’s Terms of Reference.

8.3 Neighbourhood Plan Review – a Teams meeting is schedule with Urban Imprint for January 27 to talk through the final draft of the revised neighbourhood plan.

8.4 Environment/Highways – Councillor Charlesworth has nothing further to add regarding the nature recovery working group. This new group needs its terms and direction set.

8.5 Finance/Scrutiny – Councillor Charlesworth explained the thinking behind this new working group. The purpose being to report ¼ ly to the Council but on a monthly basis, review the bank versus reconciliation, scrutinise the expenditure, making sure that the council is getting value for money. Review the expenditure against agreed budgets and forecast three months in advance.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, March 2, 2026. The meeting closed at 20:49.

Signed:

Date:

Councillor Wearne
Chair, Brereton Parish Council