



Minutes of the Meeting of Brereton Parish Council

held on Monday March 2, 2026

at Brereton Primary School

1. Apologies

It was resolved (**0326/01**) to receive apologies from Councillor Wootton due to family bereavement.

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

Absent – Councillor Castle

Members of the Public – ten

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Andrews declared that Agenda item 7.1 is an applicant of the Community Speed Watch Team.

3. Public Forum

- Councillor Robert Douglas of Congleton Town Council informed the meeting that he is progressing the engine idling signs for Brereton Heath Lane near the nature reserve. He also mentioned his campaign to save the open countryside from developers who favour this over brownfield sites on a cost basis. Councillor Douglas has written to Sarah Russell MP asking that she seeks funds from central Government to enable local councils to facilitate a study seeking out brownfield sites hopefully resulting in a five-year land supply for development.
- Mr Spillsbury, school caretaker, informed the meeting that a portacabin will be installed in front of the school to accommodate an increase in the number of pupils. He also asked whether the parish council was progressing the idea of safety barriers outside the school.
- A member of the public asked if the parish council had any plans to fix the verges on Brereton Heath Lane near the nature reserve.

4. Council Minutes

It was resolved (**0326/02**) for the Chair to sign the Minutes of January 26, 2026 confirming them as a true and correct representation of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. It was resolved (**0326/03**) to receive the Clerk's Report, Appendix A.

- The Clerk observed the amount of litter in the parish and asked that the council consider forming a litter group.
- The tragic fatality on the A534 at the junction of Moorhead Lane was noted and the Clerk will raise concerns with Cheshire East Highways Safety Team.
- Councillor Andrews reported his attendance at a Business Planning event and will circulate the slides.

5.2. Chair's Report - Councillor Wearne updated the meeting on the future of neighbourhood policing in Cheshire, the proposed PCSO number now stands at 57, down 30.

- Devolution has taken place between Cheshire and Warrington, making us a combined authority with a mayoral election set for 2027.
- March 31, 2026, is the cutoff date for the call for new sites for housing by Cheshire East.
- The parish council have established a new finance working party supervised by Councillor Charlesworth and the terms of reference have been agreed.
- Councillor Andrews has taken the role of Deputy Chair.
- The Chair is expecting Councillor's to attend Chalc training events as publicised by the Clerk.

5.3. Councillor Wray's Report – Councillor Wray reported on attendance at the full council meeting of Cheshire East on February 25 where a vote of no confidence was defeated. The requested budget increase of 10% was rejected and the budget increase set at 4.99%. Central Government may make up the short fall with a £30 million loan over 10 years.

5.4. Any further business – it was resolved (**0326/04**) to accept the resignation of Councillor Dixon. The Chair presented her with a card and gift voucher whilst thanking her for her input and commitment to the Council.

6. Finance

Councillor Charlesworth set out the reasoning behind the new finance working group. The aim being to meet once a month to look at expenditure and every three months to review the spend against budget.

6.1 Bank Reconciliation – it was resolved (**0326/05**) to approve the payments as agreed by the finance working group and receive the expenditure against budget report.

Urban Imprint	1200.00
CDAT Brereton Hall Hire x 12	440.00
Clerk's Office Rent x 52	312.00
Staff Salary (February)	773.37
Staff Pension	225.77
HMRC	79.67
Clerk's Expenses March - March	490.94
Chalc Training	40.00
Chair's Expenses	28.50
NHP Printing	96.00
Storage Team D/D	28.80
	3715.05

6.2 Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment – it was resolved **(0326/06)** to adopt the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment for the financial year 2026/27 as presented by the Clerk and having been reviewed by all Councillors.

6.3 Assertion 10 - is a new requirement introduced in the 2025 Practitioners' Guide for smaller authorities. It applies to Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR) for the financial year beginning 1st April 2025. This assertion ensures that councils demonstrate real compliance with digital and data protection matters.

- Brereton Parish Council councillors have gov.uk email addresses.
- The website is a gov.uk domain and compliant against WCAG 2.2 AA with a FOI policy and Transparency Code available.
- The Council are registered with the ICO and Councillors will be given the opportunity of training.
- It was resolved **(0326/07)** to adopt the IT Policy as presented by the Clerk.

7. Planning Applications/Decision/Inquiry

7.1 26/0333/HOUS Tree Cottage CW12 4SW – it was resolved **(0326/07)** to support the application.

8. Working Priorities

8.1 Community Speed Watch Group – the data for January/February was received.

CSW no.	Loc	Date	Start	Count	Offenders	%age
63	St Oz	20/01/2026	15:00	Equip	Failure	N/A
64	A54 Bus Stop	21/01/2026	14:01	296	2	0.7%
65	St Oz	17/02/2026	14:02	37	0	0.0%
66	Outer School In	18/02/2026	09:28	26	5	19.2%

8.2 Community Engagement Group – will report at the next meeting.

8.3 Environment/Highways – nothing further to report.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, April 13, 2026. The meeting closed at 21:08.

Signed:

Date:

Councillor Wearne
Chair, Brereton Parish Council