

## Wessex Association of Driving Instructors

### Minutes of the January meeting

Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 8pm at West Wilts Conservative Club

**Members present:** Sandra Belton, Bridget Hollister, Dave Chance, Donna Williams, Kate Andrews, Geoff Storey, Andrew Holmes, Geoff Harvey, Mike Donnelly, Neil Crook, Charlie Johnston-Osgood.

**Apologies:** Justin Snell-McLellan

#### **Last Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were read..

#### **Matters arising:**

##### **DIA Conference**

There was discussion following the attendance of some members of the DIA Conference in December at Coventry, which was not attended by Loveday Ryder!

The DVSA was instead represented by Pauline Reeves their Director of Driver Services who stood square and took some flack and general said the right things to this audience. Although Carly clearly would have liked her to take over from Loveday, this was subsequently not to be and we wait now to see how Beverley Warmington the DVSA's new Chief Expectative shapes up. During this evenings meeting there was conversation rather than in depth reports given, although Bridget was not overly impressed by Lisa Dorn, Professor of Driver Behaviour, who apparently confessed to struggling with her own son's progress at learning to drive. Shaun Helman, Chief Scientist Behavioural Sciences strayed from his intended topic and instead spoke on various aspects including the differences between Males and Females in terms of application to learning and the attitude toward driving and risks generally. Chris Howes ex Chief DVSA Driving examiner told us that examiners are more concerned with the 'Safety' of a drive, over the 'Finesse' that a candidate demonstrates and that not all minor driver faults are recorded, only ones 'worthy' of recording. Also that a single serious error in an otherwise faultless drive, needs to be considered serious 'enough' to result in a fail of the test overall. Interesting. And did he really say toward the end that 'quality, uniformity and standards in testing are gone'?? Did David Bolton, hypnotist, 'entertain or enlighten'? All that came across was that apparently, if we talk calmly and gently, those we talk to may be more inclined to be persuaded toward whatever we may be suggesting. However, none of our delegates were persuaded onto the stage! There were other presentations on Motor risk management from an insurer's perspective, Mobility driving and assessments from Mobility and Training specialists and finally a Coaching tips session hosted by Graham Hooper, head of Driver Training Development at the DIA and always interesting, if sometimes controversial.

##### **AOB.**

**Longfield Roundabout roadworks.** Essentially: planned changes, running late, general confusion. However, Bridget's ability to trot out

off the cuff a whole list of what's happening, in what direction, when and for how long, is impressive indeed.

**MLP.** A contentious issue and a bag of worms! Much discussion ensued. However, at this stage it is only out for consultation and whilst the direction is clear, nothing at all is firm. Several members felt

that participation in the survey would be a good idea, particularly considering the history of recent involvement in surveys and outcomes. As no set finish date for the consultation is mentioned at this point (?), perhaps those inclined to take part should do so without too much delay.

Secretaries comment: do we feel that it might be an idea for those who will do it, to get together to jointly discuss our thoughts regarding the consultations questionnaire, before doing so? Also, there are two surveys being conducted at the moment; the DVSA's and the DIA's, which is similar, but also different, so worth looking at.

**Christmas meal** is to be 12<sup>th</sup> December and at the same venue following last year's success

**Raffle.** New format. The board has been retired and replaced by Raffle tickets (no need to keep stubs!) Cost £1 per ticket.

**Bay parking during tests.** Whilst outside car parks are still used, it appears that more use is being made of the test centre car park.

**Next social meeting.** 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at the Water Meadows. Numbers to Bridget please.

**Next Business meeting.** 9<sup>th</sup> March 8pm West Wilts Conservative Club as usual.

**Meeting Closed 8.59pm**

**Signed**

**Dated**