

## Wessex Association of Driving Instructors

Minutes of the March meeting

Held on Monday 9th March 2026 at West Wilts Conservative Club

### **Members present:**

Dave Chance, Sandra Belton, Bridget Hollister, Geoff Harvey, Kate Andrews, Andrew Holmes, Mike Donnelly, Justin Snell-McLellan

### **Apologies:**

Mark Breeze, Neil Crook, Pan West, Charlie Johnston-Osgood

### **Last Meeting**

Minutes taken as read.

### **Matters arising**

Dave stated that he, Geoff H and Mike D had got together to discuss the DVSA's consultation paper regarding the MLP proposal. Most members had not read the questionnaire and accompanying paperwork in full and a general discussion followed and thoughts and opinions were exchanged. The scope and complexity of the consultation becomes apparent with discussion. The purpose behind the consultation was also questioned and discussed. Dave, Geoff and Mike did not express their conclusions, or how they would reply. Or indeed, if they could agree on their answers. The floor questioned the worth of replying, given the DVSA's previous consideration, or lack of, ADI's thoughts and preferences as stated in earlier consultations, but also suggested that we should respond so as to at least have our say. Geoff felt that a larger members gathering to discuss this issue would likely end up as a very lengthy and inconclusive meeting, although that would not be a waste of time. Dave suggested that an hour put aside by members to individually read the accompanying DVSA explanatory papers, would be beneficial. As there is time to do this before the deadline, it seems a reasonable suggestion from the chair.

The agenda for social meetings was discussed and all agreed to continue with The Water Meadow.

Making tax digital was raised. Whilst it will be more of an inconvenience for some, we will all deal with it within our own systems and arrangements. Initially the £50k turnover figure will exclude many it seems, although, by stages, we will all become embroiled by the 28-29 tax year. Unless we retire!

Bot's and Swaps and upcoming associated difficulties were discussed. Bridget played an extract from a DVSA webinar which stated that ADIs would no longer be able to swap tests between their own pupils. Apparently in future, in order to swap a test by phoning DVSA, both parties (pupils only) must be together on the line at the same time. (Secretary Comment: how will the DVSA call handler know the two parties are who they claim to be? Surely this is open to fraudulent use). Bridget stated that problems were raised during the webinar regarding this, as although inconvenient for many, there are occasions where it would be impossible for some.

It was also questioned if the bots would be able to somehow continue swapping tests for clients after the 31<sup>st</sup>. There seems uncertainty regarding this, so it's a 'watch this space' issue.

Geoff asked why some members are not listing themselves on the association's website? We are an association which has certain member benefits. The camaraderie is an obvious benefit, as is the exchange of information and knowledge between members. But similarly we promote not only ourselves, but fellow members by directing potential clients to colleagues via the website.

Dave Chance explained that he is not included as he does not have a suitable photograph. (Will that ever change?) A photo would be a benefit Dave, but it's the details which are most helpful.

Contact Mike Palmer: 07881 913387 or email to [mike@warminsterweb.co.uk](mailto:mike@warminsterweb.co.uk) to get yourself listed.

There was some discussion on the continuing Longfield 'Gyratory' system. But apart from 'it's progressing' there was not much to be said, other than Examiners seem to be avoiding it somewhat.

A retirement present for Donna was discussed and a collection made. Clearly Donna is popular!

**Next meeting.**

Social (Donna's retirement do) 7.30pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, The Water Meadow.

**Next Business meeting** 8pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May West Wilts Cons Club

**Meeting closed 9.04pm**

**Signed**

**Dated**