Minutes

1. 2pm - arrival, coffee, refreshments
   a. Attendees:
      Chair: Nick Waterhouse
      Secretary: Lynda Goldsmith
      Membership Officer: Alec R. Western
      Cathy Watts, Andy Byers, Nicholas Reynolds, David Reynolds, Paul Butcher,
      Roger Weeks, Harry Eames, Ian Goodwin, Rory Graham

      Guests: Karen Hoskins, Sue Western

   b. Apologies:
      Ray More, Richard Proctor

2. Welcome
   a. Nick Waterhouse welcomed everyone to the Branch meeting.
   b. Housekeeping and emergency arrangements for the premises were explained.
   c. Nick explained that the committee would like to expand and he would welcome volunteers to help out
   d. Nick asked if members had venues available for future meetings.
      Southernprint is always available but it would be useful to have other venues
   e. Nick asked about frequency of meetings and members agreed that every 3 months would be suitable
   f. Nick introduced the Guest Speaker: Colin Smith from Avery Weigh-Tronix
3. **Speaker: Colin Smith**
   a. A detailed presentation and hand out on the Dangers of Overloading
   b. Content included:
      - About central weighing
      - UK enforcement
      - Legislation
      - Dangers and effects of overloading
      - Precautions and advice
      - Types of weighing equipment
      - Questions and answers
   c. Colin took us around the world explaining the axle weighing systems in many countries
   d. VOSA has now changed to DVSA: Driver and Vehicles Standards Agency
   e. Details were explained about the responsibilities of both Driver and Employer and that there is a shared legal and moral responsibility
   f. Why does overloading occur?
      - Ignorance – no awareness of legislation or dangers of overloading
      - Negligence – awareness but no policy or morals about overloading
      - Profit – creating unfair competition to seek monetary outcome
   g. Enforcement – this is improving and penalties have increased
   h. Precautions – understand the weight and weight limits of vehicles, knowing where the plate is on vehicles that lists the weight limits, checking axle and gross weights before setting out

4. **Group Networking**
   a. Time given to members to discuss future subjects for meetings and get to know each other and the work that they do
   b. New CDM Regulations – changes after October; this would be a useful subject for members
   c. Fire Risk Assessments – another suggested topic
   d. Members were positive in sharing working practices and problems that they face; Nick commented on how much expertise there was in the room and informed members that they were always welcome to formally address future meetings about their speciality subject

5. **Closing Address**
   a. NW closed the meeting, thanks given to Colin Smith
   b. Date and venue to be confirmed for next meeting

---Close---