9th/21st Plymouth Scout Group – AGM 2025-2026

10th September 2026, Tavy Lodge

Present:

Mark Parkman - Chairman
Jan Parkman – Treasurer
Vanessa Steer – Secretary
Teresa Brownrigg
Martin Limburn (District)
Paul Roberts (District)
Tracey Sutcliffe
James Parker
Jan Parker
Steve Mahoney
Jess Mahoney
Alex Parker
Jude Rodgers
Charlee Fuller
Ben Renshaw – Trustee
Karen Stephens – Trustee
Amanda Jury (Other) 59th GLV
Parents/Leaders/Volunteers/Trustees/Young People as per attached sheet.

Apologies – had been received from Louise Farn, Mike Mabin and Kat Dorrington.

Welcome - Mark Parkman welcomed everyone to the meeting, telling us that we had been operating out of Tavy Lodge for 12 years and are growing every year!

Minutes of the 2025 AGM – these had been available on the website. Approved by Gemma Lord and seconded by James Parker.

Matters arising

Governance – At the AGM we accept/adopt the List of Trustees. It was proposed that Charlee Fuller be accepted as Bookings and Minibus Secretary. Vanessa Steer is ex-officio as Secretary. Brian Staplehurst has stepped down due to ill health. Alan Meyrick has also stood down.

Constitution – this is available on the website. We were asked to look at it and raise any queries or concerns with the Leaders at the next meeting.

Review of last year – there was a PowerPoint presentation with photos of some of last year's activities.

Beavers' Report – Tracey Sutcliffe gave us this as below:

"Our numbers are around 25-28. We had been teaching kindness, had fun and made friends. It has been an action-packed year and some key challenge badges had been completed. We also did our Skills, Bird Feeders, Craft, Outdoors at Blindman's Wood, made dens and had our Flamboree. Key stand-out moments were a walk planned by Steve Mahoney. They were given a hiking badge because they came in half an hour late. We also went Bowling, and had burgers. We almost 'lost' a few Beavers down the alleys."

Cubs' Report – Teresa Brownrigg gave us this as below:

"This year again the Cub Pack has been running at maximum capacity and we have had a waiting list for people outside of our Beaver Colony.

As usual we have been very busy, the Cubs have taken part in a lot of activities which have included the Cub Scout Winter Warm Up at Dewerstone Cottage where they did several Scouting activities which included climbing, hiking, etc.

They have also been on camp with our Scouts, to Hooe Lake, and to the Mount Edgecumbe Scout Campsite where we were joined by Becky's Group. There they went to the Greenman Festival at Mount Edgecumbe; some of the older Beavers who were swimming up to Cubs also joined the camp and some of our Beaver Colony joined us for the day on the Sunday.

We have had visits from Guide Dogs for the Blind where Phil brought along dogs with their trainers/blind person, two puppies in training and 2 working dogs, and 1 retired dog when they were able to meet the dogs and ask questions of their owner.

Also visits from the Police and Blood Bank Motor Cyclists, and we have been out visiting Greenbank Fire Station, the Knife Angel sculpture then up to The Hoe.

The Cubs have also taken part in several joint and District Events, which have included the District Tug of War, Field Gun, visit to Paignton Zoo, and swimming at the Lido to name just a few.

I would like to thank the Leaders, Young Leaders and parents. Without your continued support Cub Scouts wouldn't run. I also hope that the Cub Scouts both old and new continue to enjoy their Scouting Adventure."

Scout Section Report – Alex Parker gave us this as below:

"We are incredibly proud of our 30 young people who have thrown themselves into everything Scouting has to offer; from camping and outdoor adventures, to learning new skills, working towards badges, trying things for the first time and, most importantly, having fun together. They have made some fantastic memories.

Scouting is about far more than simply earning badges. It's about giving young people opportunities to challenge themselves, become more confident and independent, learn to work as a team, and discover what they are capable of.

Over the past year we've seen our Scouts get outdoors, experience new adventures, learn practical skills and support one another. Whether they were putting up a tent, cooking outdoors, completing a challenge, learning a new skill or simply enjoying time together around a campfire, it has been a fantastic 12 months.

Of course, it goes without saying that without the time, efforts and support from the Leaders, Committee and Trustees this wouldn't be possible.

To me, the year is measured with two extreme temperatures! Winter Warm-up with the heating on full, wood burner and many layers of clothing suitable for a polar expedition! Then Summer Camp which was a ridiculous 30° fighting for the shade, drinking gallons of water to stay hydrated and the effort on the Monday to take down a small village of tents, was an epic task!

Finally without me rambling on too much, I wanted to show a video to you from our trip to Wales in May, when we joined Kidwelly Scout Group, with whom we have joined forces many times, but I think watching this will show how much fun the Scouts have, also show the up-and-coming Beavers and Cubs what they have to look forward to!"

Mark thanked Alex and the other Leaders for their reports. He has added the video to various grant applications and it had been great to share them. Next year Switzerland!

Chairman's Report - Mark Parkman gave us his report. He again thanked the Parents/ Trustees/Executive Committee, also our Sponsors. Grants had been "drying up". Squirrels will be starting up hopefully, when we have a permanent Leader. Some of the Young Leaders are University students who are governed by school holidays. The hardest work this year had been the Risk Assessments. This meant that we had to review each and every activity we undertake, but it also means that everyone is protected.

Mark told us the story of when James was a Scout and he was a Leader: the young people had talked all night so they started off on a walk and got a bit lost. However in the Camp Logs notes were made of all the special things they had done with the comment – "It was the best/only camp where I've slept all night!" A salutary lesson.

So far there was no update on the lane. There had been a problem with the Solicitors but it was hoped that next year the lane will be fully ours and we can start work on it.

Treasurer's Report – Jan Parkman presented these to us as below –

"The accounts for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 are as the attached sheets. Thank you to Mr Tim Lyddon who has acted as our Independent Examiner for this year.

INCOME

The income for this year rose again from last year, due partly to the increase in subscriptions and quite a large increase in rent income for Tavy Lodge. The renting out of Tavy Lodge for private functions and to other Scout/Guide Groups has become a valuable source of income. Many thanks to those who work hard to keep it running throughout the year through maintenance, cleaning and upgrading, ensuring that it is a safe, pleasant and clean space for everyone to use.

We continue to use the savings account to help us budget for larger expenditure by transferring money into it when the current account builds up (nearly £32,000 has been transferred this year). By doing this we are also able to protect our current account from fraud. A small amount of interest has been earned on this account.

This year income from grants has increased slightly. Mark works hard to write funding bids for the Group and this year has been a little more successful. Any help with fundraising would be gratefully received. All this money is spent on the young people.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has increased this year with the Troop purchasing a van to use throughout the year to transport equipment to the many activities they undertake. The minibus was just too small for our growing needs!

Camp equipment continues to be upgraded ensuring that everyone has a great experience at camp. For those of you who have dropped your children off and collected them from Cawsands I'm sure you will agree that the Group camping is an amazing sight.

A large proportion of our expenditure this year has been spent on maintaining and upgrading the headquarters. There are now great storage facilities at the rear of the Headquarters. Many thanks to those who worked hard on this.

The year before last we were gifted the lane down to the Headquarters. Unfortunately the legal process to transfer the lane is still ongoing. Hopefully, this will be resolved soon; by next year the legal process will be completed we will have started to make the lane a safer and more welcoming access. Fingers crossed!"

This year's capitation fees were £7000. This will be transferred from the Savings Account. The Accounts had been approved at last week's meeting and need to be accepted at this meeting. Jess Mahoney proposed and Matt Mead seconded. All passed nem con.

GSL Report – James said we would look backwards and forwards. What had we achieved and what can we improve. In 2027 it will be 40 years since we had merged; this also represented his and Mark's involvement with the Group. He then produced his Cub cap, jumper, beret and Scout shirt and told us that in 1995 he had attended the World Scout Jamboree. He gave thanks to all the Trustees, Leaders and Executive Committee members, as well as all those who turn up every week.

In the last 12 months we had been on and enjoyed trips to Wales, Winter Warm-up and Summer Camps, Woodlands, Great Western Adventure Sleepover and Paignton Zoo, the latterly having been attended by 1310 Scouts. They had also had free access to the climbing wall and the Argyle Funzone.

As for 2027, anyone who has siblings who would like to join, please let him know. Several other things/activities have been agreed as well as the big 40th Camp. We were exhorted to let OSM "be our friend" and to please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable/unwilling to attend any of the activities. If you think you have any talent or can help the Group, again, please let him know.

Mark gave thanks to James for all he does and said that in James' words "Scouting is not just Thursdays" and all he wanted was for the Young People and Leaders to have fun.

District Leader Martin Limburn and District President Paul Roberts – remarked on how the Groups run really well and then gave out special badges to Steve, Steve and Becky as well as District Commendations. Hayley was given a 10-year award which was accepted in her absence. James also gave out several awards to the Young People. Jan Parkman was also presented with a 10-year award by Paul Roberts.

There being no questions or further business the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

SIGNED ……..

DATED ……..