Chair's Report for Loders Annual Parish Assembly, Tuesday April 16th 2024

Loders Parish Council has had yet another busy and productive year.

We can be pleased that we have successfully achieved the majority of the objectives set out in our Business Plan for 2023-2024. These include:

- Finance – achieving the right balance between resources expended and the level of precept.
- Planning and Development – Consultation to Review/Update our Neighbourhood Plan. On advice from planning consultant, Jo Witherden the decision was made to defer until adoption of new Dorset Local plan.
- Democratic linkages – attending BLAP parish liaison meetings , involvement in DAPTC meetings, networking events and "Working Together" initiative
- Actively involved in DC initiatives, including response to consultation on guidance for planning for climate change and recent proposed changes to next Local Plan
- Parish Maintenance – working with Playground Equipment Working Group, supporting/liaising with the Shelter Group to erect playing field shelter
- Community Engagement – Developing a model to facilitate Community Group projects.
- Climate and Ecological – actively pursuing the goals within the three areas: Transport, Renewable Energy and Natural Assets. And actively fostering and facilitating community engagement in implementing individual aspects of this plan. Our July Newsletter and invitation to a public meeting in October has led to the emergence of three energetic and active autonomous community groups each now pursuing the many goals of our Climate and Ecological Policy.

It is in the nature of Parish Council matters that some issues just take a long time to resolve: Unfinished business which the new Parish Council will have to wrestle with include

- Supporting the Parish in meeting the changes to climate and ecology
- Ensuring broadband coverage for the whole parish. Our hopes raised recently by Jurassic Fibre are currently suspended.
- The reversal of the CGR decision, which will emerge as an active issue in the next twelve months.
- The long standing road issues at Waddon Way, Gribb Farm, Smishops Lane and Yellow Lane will take a substantial time to sort
- Tackling the ageing playground equipment at Well Plot
- The emerging Local Plan ...and a new Neighbourhood Plan?
- Persuading residents to join the new Parish Council after May

Especial thanks are due to our skilled and hardworking clerk, Joanne Hughes, who, even when she has other serious calls on her time, continues to ensure that we are well organised, well run and well informed.