

Uplyme Parish Council meetings will take on an extra dimension in future. The Council applied for Big Lottery funding for a digital projector and screen, to make it easier for councillors and members of the public alike to view important documents. Awards for All granted £825 to cover the cost of the equipment, which will be essential after next April, when East Devon District Council will be going over to all-electronic planning. Then, the Council will no longer be receiving paper blueprints to study. Instead, plans will be projected using the Council computer, to allow Councillors to see details that would be obscured in an A4 print-out.

Before the meeting on Wednesday 14th, Lois Wakeman, the Parish Clerk, said “I spent some time adjusting the seating plan for the village hall in order to cater for this technological advance!”. Councillors and the public were given a trial viewing of the monthly finance sheet, and then the draft budget that was proposed by the Finance Committee. After some discussion, the Council adopted the budget, which is used to set the precept for next year.

Lois said “The Council will therefore be requesting the same precept as last year (just £19.07 per Band D property, or 37p a week – only a penny more than the price of a second-class stamp). This is despite budgeting for extra items including expenses for the Snow Warden winter self-help scheme, a computer and printer to replace the 7½-year old kit currently in use, a generous contribution towards a new toddler slide for the playground, and a substantial sum towards the preparation of a neighbourhood plan” *. She went on to add that the surplus from this year (due largely to the fact there was no election in May) will be used to defray the shortfall in anticipated income.

* Under the recent Localism Act, parishes will be given the power to create a successor to their parish plans. This allows them to say what sort of development is appropriate in their location. With no neighbourhood plan, EDDC’s Local Plan would control allowed development. (You can see what the draft Local Plan says, and make comments on it, by visiting the web site www.eastdevon.gov.uk or calling 01395 516551 to find out how to get a paper copy.)

At the meeting, Councillor Chris Sellers announced his resignation, after many years of service to the Council, especially managing the Council’s grounds contractor and Emergency Plan, so there is now a vacancy that may be filled by election, or by co-option.

The Council will be looking for tenders for its annual maintenance contract (grasscutting etc.) in January, and is also asking for expressions of interest from local tradespeople for odd jobs and handyman work. Contact clerk@uplymeparishcouncil.org, or call 01297 444707, for more information.

The Big Lottery Fund distributes half of the National Lottery good cause funding across the UK. The Fund aims to enable others to make real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need.