



At the Parish Council meeting on 16th October councillors were joined by County Councillor Andy Paraskos and Police Constable Pierre Olesqui. PC Olesqui is appalled by the repeated damage to our community benches and is keen to arrest the guilty party. However, nothing can be done without evidence. He now recommends the use of covert cameras and is willing to assist the Parish Council with the installation. Obviously, this support is welcomed.

The meeting was informed that the Chairman has received an anonymous phone call naming the person the caller alleges is responsible for the damage to both the seats and the grass verge at the front of Sandmoor. The information provided is totally unsubstantiated but we would encourage the caller to get in touch again, either with the Chairman, or better still PC Olesqui to make a formal statement.

A cash reward has been offered by a concerned Bickerton resident. This is a genuine offer for evidence which leads to a conviction. Understandably the donor wishes to remain anonymous.

The replacement of an old seat in Bilton in Ainsty was included in our budget and the second seat for Bilton though not planned was within contingencies. What we did not expect was having to replace our old original seat and the cost of repairs due to the sustained campaign of malicious damage, this has depleted our reserves. Consequently, we will be applying for an increase to our precept. The current repairs to the seats are continuing and the seats will soon be fully restored. There are plans in place to repair the damaged concrete base. The repairs to the seats and the base will be at no cost to the Parish Council.

We will refit the seats to their concrete bases and if they are damaged again, the Parish Council will purchase steel seats, which are not so decorative but are difficult to destroy. Whatever happens, those responsible for doing this damage need to know that there **will** be seats on this site.

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