

BUNNY ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A Sub-Committee of Bunny Parish Council

Notes of Meeting 20.08.25.

1. Attendance

John Berridge, Vivien Keller-Garnet, Stuart Taylor, Chris Webb

Apologies - David Beckford, Chris Rogers

2. Notes of Meeting 16.07.25.

Agreed as a correct record. N.B. the 'friend' of Stuart Taylor was amended to be a neighbour.

3. Matters Arising

- It was confirmed that the Solar Panel Seminar experienced team will consist of at least Chris Webb, Stuart Taylor (and possibly his neighbour who brings experience of Air Source Heating) Dave Eastgate and possibly Graham Norbury (who both established Solar Panel arrays under the George Osbourne arrangements in 2010.) The venue for the seminar was discussed and it was agreed that the Rancliffe Arms should be approached. A date is yet to be finalised. An advertising leaflet is yet to be written to be posted to all houses in the village using the usual distribution arrangements.
- Ruth Mulvany has been emailed to establish the current status of the Community Energy Fund with a view to continuing with the application for a Stage 1 Feasibility Grant. An office reply was received indicating Ruth will return to the office on 26th August.
- Jan Eastgate and Penny Wakefield have been approached to work with Chris Rogers on the matter of sustainable energy in the public buildings of Bunny, specifically the church and the village hall.

4. Listed Buildings Seminar.

It was agreed to approach (a second time) the secretary of Bradmore P.C. to establish the number and addresses of 'listed buildings' with a view to approaching the owners to invite them, along with Bunny listed building owners to a seminar on Energy Sustainability. The advertising leaflet was agreed with the addition of details

of date, time and venue. It is estimated that there will be between 12 and 20 listed buildings identified. It was also agreed to approach Sera Baker, the Listed Buildings Officer, to establish that unlike the previous village seminar, this will be an extended audience, all of whom own (or live in) listed buildings.

5. Octopus

This discussion about establishing a relationship with an energy provider, follows a failed attempt with a representative of E-On resulting from conversations at the 'Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards' meeting in November 2024. In one sense Octopus is an obvious choice since its Principal Selling Point is sustainable electricity. Additionally its record since its foundation in 2015 indicates significant expansion and a developing interest in raising awareness of climate change evidenced by the 2019 launch of 'Portraits from the Precipice@' which encouraged customers to switch to greener energy deals. It is not known whether there could be group cost reductions and this is a matter which needs to be discussed with Bunny Parish Council to establish whether there are legal obligations applying to Parish Councils and their Sub-Committees. It was agreed that, as the only current Octopus customer on BESC, Chris Webb would be the obvious choice to approach Octopus once the legal niceties have been settled.

6. A.O.B.

The potential Earthshot application was further discussed. The committee was informed that the Community Energy Bill, introduced by Joe Morris, M.P. for Hexham, had its second reading on July 11th. Its status is "continuing" since its contents and implications are still being discussed. A conversation with Joe Morris, initiated by James Naish, indicated that Joe is very much in favour of the Bunny proposals for the government to establish a UK Villages Net-Zero policy. It was agreed to approach James Naish again to discuss the details of how our objective may be achieved. John Berridge agreed to do this since, although winning an Earthshot prize would be unthinkable, the importance of such a Government policy being given consideration in the Earthshot process merits our continued attention.

Chris Webb raised the issue of problems of grid capacity resulting in failure of solar panel users to be able to sell excess generated electricity to the grid. This resulted in a more general discussion about the importance of the extension and increased capacity of the grid to deal with an expanding solar and wind sustainable energy generation and the importance of UK self sufficiency in avoiding energy supply breakdowns in other countries and malevolent political interference from countries wishing to establish geo-political control.

