

BUNNY ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A Sub Committee of Bunny Parish Council

Notes of Meeting 21.1.26.

1. Attendance

David Beckford, John Berridge, Dave Farrow, Vivien Keller-Garnet Chris Rogers
Stuart Taylor, Chris Webb.

Dave Farrow was welcomed to BESC and members introduced themselves. It was noted that it will not now be necessary to rearrange the deliveries schedule.

2. Notes of Meeting 19.11.25.

It was noted that the minutes have not yet been posted on the website since they have not yet been approved. John apologised for not having noticed and therefore not acted on Viv's request to remove the reference to the possibility of her moving away from Bunny. Other than that matter the notes were agreed as a correct record. The amended notes will be provided for Chris to post on the website.

3. Matters Arising

It was noted that at the meeting on 19.11.25. It was agreed that only the full note of a meeting would be posted on the website. It was also noted that the facility to record hits on the website is now in place and Chris Webb displayed a printout. It was reported that since Councillor Matthews (NCC Reform Party) had withdrawn from attending Bunny Parish Council (whether permanently or not is not known) it would probably be unwise for John to meet Councillor Bingham to challenge his statement that global warming is a hoax.

Chris Rogers informed the meeting that he is continuing to work on the video of the Solar Panels seminar. It was also noted that arrangements to contact Mary Gillie at Ashton Hayes with regard to it being a Local Energy Social Enterprise are yet to be made.

At this point in the meeting, three matters which have occurred between the last meeting in 2025 and this first meeting in 2026 were reported on;

1. An announcement made by Ed Miliband on behalf of the government.

U.K. homes are to get £15 billion for solar and green technology to cut energy bills. An interview on BBC indicated that the government wishes to support home insulation, solar panels and Air Source Heat Pumps. The £15 billion is meant to help cover the costs of households over the next 5 years. The money will be available for distribution to both house owners and renters. He referred to this policy as being a “rooftop revolution” intended to triple the number of homes using solar panels and therefore helping to lift 1 million people out of fuel poverty. Apparently homes installing the three technologies could save £500 per year. Other estimates put this figure as high as £1000.

Measures will include;

- Extending the boiler upgrade scheme by a year to 2030, offering £7,500 grants for air source heat pumps.
- An additional £600m for low income families to receive.
- £5 billion available for funding for the full cost of solar panels and batteries.
- Low to zero interest loans for households irrespective of income.

The scheme was strongly welcomed by energy industry workers unions and the finance sector. The trade body Energy U.K. described the policy as a substantial commitment. Octopus and EDF who encourage electric heating said it will help cut bills long term. The government is yet to decide how and when households will receive the money. It is estimated that the measures will reduce CO2 emissions by 18%.

Richard Tice, the deputy leader of Reform called it a scandalous waste of £15 billion of taxpayers cash, which will be used for buying Chinese solar panels. (two thirds of solar panels imported by the UK were made in China in 2024)

Ed Miliband indicated that he is determined to diversify supply chains by investment in companies in the U.K.

However it was noted that there had been problems with the government’s insulation scheme with a controversy about botched insulations.

2. Ground Source Heat Pumps.

John reported that he has received an email from David Boon senior engineering and geothermal geologist at B.G.S. He emailed because in 2022 John and Chris Rogers as the founding members of BESC made contact with him to discuss ground source possibilities. He reported that BGS Keyworth campus had installed 28 borehole GSHP systems last year and they are now working. John provided a copy of his reply email to David. John also noted that ground source heat pumps are cost effective, have zero emissions, reduce energy bills, require low maintenance, protect the environment and have access to a constant ground temperature of 54 to 58

degrees F. John agreed to make contact with David to discuss possibilities and to look up on Google maps the positioning of the 28 houses before the next meeting.

3. Progress on renewable energy solutions for the church.

Chris Rogers has discussed this matter with Father Tom and established that a Lottery Heritage Fund bid may be the way forward in which case the contribution to the environment will need to be justified. However, rules relating to churches are in their infancy and there is a problem about making material changes to the fabric of churches. These matters are controlled by the Faculty Jurisdiction. What is clear is that church insurers are slow to give permission to have battery systems in churches which would be necessary if solar panels are introduced to replace gas boilers. A way round the problems may be for a church supporting land owner to allow a solar array to be positioned on his or her land, selling the output to the grid and dedicating the money to the church to run air sourced heat pumps.

5. Air Source Heat Pumps

A document based on the government's advice about Air Sourced Heat Pumps was considered with a view to holding a further green energy village seminar. The document provided information about how ASHPs work and what they do, current numbers in use, the benefits of ASHPs, the financial assistance available, the Microgeneration Certification Scheme installers, checking their suitability, Ground Source Heat Pumps, maximising householding insulation, the use of a smart meter and ASHP use alongside solar panels and batteries.

6 A.O.B.

The focus of the next village Green Seminar was discussed. Insulation, heat pumps, batteries, electric vehicles and hybrid heat pumps were considered. It was agreed that an order of seminars could be 1. Insulation, 2. Batteries and Heat energy management 3. Heat Pumps. A discussion took place about the increasing significance of a computer controlled system alongside smart meters, solar panels, batteries, heat pumps and reliable weather forecasting. Further discussion about the details to take place at the next meeting.