



## MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

**Thursday 31st July 2025**

Present: Councillor Don Hammond (DH)  
Tom Horwood – Town Clerk (TH)  
Catherine Ayres – Resident representative (CA)  
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)  
Angela Owens - Resident representative (AO)  
Tim Pinchen – Residents representative (TP)  
Eric Phillips – Resident representative (EP)  
John Quincey – Resident representative (JQ)

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Natalie Beckell & Hayley Carter (Alton Town Council) and Councillor Peter Wadman
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June were proposed by JQ and TP seconded
3. **Review of Actions:**

**ACTION 3** - TP updated. Merge 3 with 19 to make ACTION 24.

**ACTION 11** - DH has circulated EA flood risk activity permit guidance and reference number. EA to be kept informed when there are more detailed proposals. EA is still awaiting response from their fisheries and diversity team.

**ACTION 12** - DH updated. Bat survey ongoing, within approved budget. Bird survey is completed and report awaited. Ecology partnership has also been instructed to carry out some additional work: investigating bat roosts, reptile surveys, and amphibian surveys.

**ACTION 13** – Close and see item 4 below.

**ACTION 17** - Closed. Response not suitable for adoption.

**ACTION 18** - (Reassign to TP) NB is in touch with Thames Water to obtain sewer plans. TP will compare Thames Water maps and historical maps, as Thames Water may be missing some information, and will revert to Thames Water. It appears that Lasham Drain is routed differently on some of the maps. This may have an implication for Thames Water responsibilities if their maps are incorrect.

**ACTION 19** - Merge with 3 to make ACTION 24. TP has spoken to EA project manager responsible for St Albans. It is a concrete series of ponds 1930s, surrounded by archaeological remains. Their project was unaffordable and they are dredging due to cost. Reeds and rushes are being planted to contain Canada geese. Not really a comparator. Search continues for comparable chalk stream rivers.

**ACTION 20** - Ongoing. (Merge with 18)

**ACTION 21** - CA will chase Cala again.

**ACTION 22** - Shared folder has been created and circulated to group members. Completed. Close.

**ACTION 23** - Close.

#### **4. Feedback from Community & Stakeholder Group**

Noted that no members of the C&S Group has volunteered to be the Chair yet. Nominations are welcome.

More discussion on ecology and habits was requested, and this was reflected in the Stage 1 procurement Invitation To Tender (ITT) document.

It was noted that Cathy Wilson has been in touch with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Further water ecology surveys are being considered to achieve a baseline and potentially a projection of impact of changes, which will be needed at the right stage for presentation to the public.

The cultural and memorial values of King's Pond was noted.

Flood risk has been restored to the ITT following the C&SG meeting. Further risk assessments will be required for EA licensing for both options.

The quality of the path was noted and any safety matters ought to be remediated.

#### **5. Discussions of Next Steps**

NB is looking into some questions that have arisen from lack of Land Registry information on ownerships of different areas of land and river.

DH reported that the value of Stage 1 (Design) will be over £30,000, which required public advertising of the work to conform with procurement regulations. Potential bids are expected for the August deadline in response to the ITT. This will include a panel presentation. Full Council will debate a resolution on the presentation aspect of the tender process. If agreed by Council, the presentation panel would include councillors

and up to two members of the Group and the Town Clerk. The Group nominated CA and EP, as well as Cllrs DH and JQ.

Tree works will be required. A tree survey was undertaken in 2024, with recommendations for work. DH will circulate this report, and it will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

## 6. Agree date for next Task & Finish Group Meeting

The August date meeting will need to be moved due to the tender presentation to:

Friday 22 August: 16 Market Square 10:00am – 11:30am

Thursday 25th September: 16 Market Square 9:30am – 11:00am

### ACTIONS FOR THE TASK & FINISH GROUP - OPEN

| Meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 |                                                                                                                                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No.                                         | Action                                                                                                                                       | Who | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11                                          | DH will explore with the EA exactly which consents are required for Kings Pond.                                                              | DH  | 31/07/2025 - DH has circulated EA flood risk activity permit guidance and reference number. EA to be kept informed when there are more detailed proposals. EA is still awaiting response from their fisheries and diversity team.                                          |
| 12                                          | DH was asked to enquire of Ecology Partnership for regular updates rather than waiting for the final report which he agreed would be useful. | DH  | 31/07/2025 - DH updated. Bat survey ongoing, within approved budget. Bird survey is completed and report awaited.<br><br>Ecology partnership has also been instructed to carry out some additional work: investigating bat roosts, reptile surveys, and amphibian surveys. |
| Meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025  |                                                                                                                                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 21                                          | Contact Cala and ask for information about the route of the Lasham drain through CALA site.                                                  | CA  | 31/07/2025 CA will chase Cala again                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Meeting held on 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025  |                                                                                                                                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 24                                          | Merged previous actions 3 & 19<br><br>Investigate where similar projects have been undertaken i.e. Anton                                     | TP  | 31/07/25 TP has spoken to EA project manager responsible for St Albans. It is a concrete series of ponds 1930s, surrounded by archaeological remains. Their project was unaffordable, and they                                                                             |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|    | <p>Lakes, Andover (speak with June Chatfield)</p> <p>Investigate St Albans and River Ver and Verulamium Park Lakes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        | <p>are dredging due to cost. Reeds and rushes are being planted to contain Canada geese.</p> <p>Not really a comparator. Search continues for comparable chalk stream rivers.</p> <p>19/06/25 Still no response. TP is certain that it won't be a viable option due to volume of water is a lot greater.</p> <p><a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/revitalising-river-ver-project">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/revitalising-river-ver-project</a></p> <p>Contact St Albans City &amp; District Council to find out more details and possibly arrange a visit.</p> |
| 25 | <p>Merged previous actions 18 &amp; 20</p> <p>Approach Environment Agency/Thames Water/South East Water for drainage maps</p> <p>When TP &amp; DH met with DJC she provided them with a lot of information about the pond. Whilst they were investigating, they found a manhole cover in the footpath on the other side of the railway and could hear water running. They are unsure where the source of the water is coming from and where it is coming out. To investigate.</p> | TP /DH | <p>31/07/2025 - ) NB is in touch with Thames Water to obtain sewer plans. TP will compare Thames Water maps and historical maps, as Thames Water may be missing some information, and will revert to Thames Water. It appears that Lasham Drain is routed differently on some of the maps. This may have an implication for Thames Water responsibilities if their maps are incorrect.</p> <p>Awaiting searches from Thames Water.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| 26 | <p>NB is looking into some questions that have arisen from lack of Land Registry information on ownerships of different areas of land and river.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | NB     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 27 | <p>Tree works will be required. A tree survey was undertaken in 2024, with recommendations for work. DH will circulate this report</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | DH     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## ACTIONS FOR THE TASK & FINISH GROUP – **CLOSED**

| No.                                               | Detail                                                                                                                                                                    | Action | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b> |                                                                                                                                                                           |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1                                                 | Send JQ minutes of the SE Water meeting (Brad Evans)                                                                                                                      | PH     | Minutes sent 25/3/25. Action Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2                                                 | Produce critical timeline for work program and funding streams                                                                                                            | PH     | Kings Pond Outline Programme tabled at the meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May to be amended to read “DRAFT” and then published                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4                                                 | Draft letter for Expression of Interest and produce list of intended recipients                                                                                           | DH     | Circulated brief to members of T&F by PH. Action Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5                                                 | Issue Expression of Interest letters to (a) project managers (b) potential design & build contractors)                                                                    | PH     | Issued 7/4/25 with responses requested by Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May (due to bank holidays). Action Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 6                                                 | Contact to be established with angling clubs who manage large lakes                                                                                                       | PW     | Regarding the action required to seek out any advice from local angling groups I had a very large enterprise in mind but have now discovered that they have sold off all the lakes to smaller clubs. My other choice was the local group known as Reading & District Angling Association (RDAA), a large club with responsibility for many ponds and lakes. I have had a recommendation back; Nick Haycock ( <a href="mailto:nick_haycock@me.com">nick_haycock@me.com</a> ). He is online as a Director at Haycock Environmental Consultants Ltd. Describes himself as a senior hydrologist and project manager specialising in lake, river and wetland creation with over 25 years’ experience. Action Closed. |
| 7.                                                | Contact to be established with Nick Haycock (plus recommendation from Tim Pinchen: Aquascience & Cain Bioengineering. Contact established & Expression of Interest issued | DH     | Information sent to Nick Haycock, Aquascience & Cain Bioengineering.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 8                                                 | Terms of Reference to be tabled at Full Council                                                                                                                           | PH/DH  | Adopted by Full Council 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025. Action Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9                                                 | JQ to approach Anthony Furnival to ask for a copy of the quote he obtained for a dredging + option for KP several years ago.                                              | JQ     | JQ advised that the Minutes should state that Anthony Furnival had “estimates” only. Therefore the action is closed and no quotes exist. Action, therefore, closed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 |                                                                                                                                              |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No.                                         | Action                                                                                                                                       | Who      | Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9                                           | JQ to approach Anthony Furnival to ask for a copy of the quote he obtained for a dredging + option for KP several years ago.                 | JQ       | JQ advised that the Minutes should state that Anthony Furnival had “estimates” and that he declined to show ATC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10                                          | CA to seek information from CALA on the silt traps throughout the development on their construction and circulate to the group               | CA       | CA was informed by CALA they use a Marshalls Hydro Downstream Defender.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11                                          | DH will explore with the EA exactly which consents are required for Kings Pond.                                                              | DH       | Happy to provide pre-application guidance when we have a finalised proposal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12                                          | DH was asked to enquire of Ecology Partnership for regular updates rather than waiting for the final report which he agreed would be useful. | DH       | Update received on 21/05/2025 no signs of water voles and Great Chested Newt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025  |                                                                                                                                              |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10                                          | CA to seek information from CALA on the silt traps throughout the development on their construction and circulate to the group               | CA       | CA was informed by CALA they use a Marshalls Hydro Downstream Defender. <b>22/05/25</b> CA will investigate further to advise the group of the details of the silt traps.<br><b>19/06/25</b> CA sent brochure for the Downstream Defenders being used within the Cala site and a link to a more technical document on different drainage solutions. |
| 15                                          | Downstream Defender                                                                                                                          | CA       | To find out more details / specification about the Hydro Downstream Defender. Details shared.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16                                          | Share details HCC APP Our Hants App                                                                                                          | NB       | <a href="https://www.hants.gov.uk/">https://www.hants.gov.uk/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Meeting held on 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025  |                                                                                                                                              |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3                                           | Investigate where similar projects have been undertaken i.e. Anton Lakes, Andover (speak with June Chatfield)                                | TP       | Merged with action 19 now ACTION 24<br><br>19/06/25 Still no response. TP is certain that it won't be a viable option due to volume of water is a lot greater.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13                                          | Evaluation of responses to Expressions of Interest Stage 1                                                                                   | DH/PH/PW | Preliminary responses to be evaluated and report prepared to be circulated to this group for final recommendation to Full Council                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|    |                                                                                              |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 | Approach to Water Environment                                                                | DH      | 31/07/2025 – Response not suitable for adoption.<br><br>19/06/2025 – DH approached and the contact we need to speak to is on holiday. DH will continue to follow up.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 19 | Investigate St Albans and River Ver and Verulamium Park Lakes.                               | TP      | Merged with action 3 now ACTION 24<br><br><a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/revitalising-river-ver-project">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/revitalising-river-ver-project</a><br>Contact St Albans City & District Council to find out more details and possibly arrange a visit.                                                                                                                                           |
| 18 | Approach Environment Agency/Thames Water/South East Water for drainage maps                  | TP      | Merged with 20 to make ACTION 25<br><br>31/07/2025 - ) NB is in touch with Thames Water to obtain sewer plans. TP will compare Thames Water maps and historical maps, as Thames Water may be missing some information, and will revert to Thames Water. It appears that Lasham Drain is routed differently on some of the maps. This may have an implication for Thames Water responsibilities if their maps are incorrect. |
| 22 | To investigate Google drive / Dropbox or similar for sharing documents rather than by email. | NB / DH | 31/07/2025 Shared folder has been created and shared                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 23 | To put visuals together for presentation.                                                    | NB / DH | Completed CLOSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |