



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Thursday 25th September 2025

Present: Councillor Don Hammond - Chair (DH)
Councillor John Quincey (JQ)
Tom Horwood – Town Clerk (TH)
Natalie Beckell – Alton Town Council (NB)
Cathy Ayres – Resident representative (CA)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Angie Owens - Resident representative (AO)
Eric Phillips – Residents representative (EP)
Ryan Doran - Resident representative (RD)

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Hayley Carter (Deputy Town Clerk) and Tim Pinchen (Resident representative)
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd August were proposed by JQ and EP seconded.
3. **Feedback from King's Pond Community & Stakeholder Group (KPC&SG)**

DH said there was extensive discussion throughout the meeting, but the main points raised from residents were Flood Risk Assessment and the expenditure on investigations, surveys and design.

It was apparent from some questions and comments that some residents don't understand what the different options are.

Minutes from the meeting are available on Alton Town Council Website - <https://www.alton.gov.uk/kings-pond-project/>

ACTION: Future website update to include information on Flood Risk and modelling.

ACTION: Update the website with recent reports – TH, DH and NB to discuss and add to website.

ACTION: The date of the next meeting is incorrect in the minutes.it should be 4th November not 2nd November.

4. **Review of Actions:**

Environment Agency (EA)

TH wrote to the EA asking for a meeting to discuss how we can progress. They replied and agreed to meet. Currently waiting for a date to be agreed with all parties.

Ecology

DH reported on the progress of the Ecology briefing paper that is in preparation. Ecology Partnership had issued a draft. This had been discussed on 24th September with a group of naturalists assembled by Cathy Wilson of Alton Natural History Society. Ecology Partnership to update the document to reflect those discussions.

ACTION: DH/NB to distribute the Briefing Document when completed

Lasham Drain

CA sent through drawings from Cala re the Brewery site drainage. These are the TW asset drawings, which are what we already have, marked up with some additional information from Cala.

TP had drafted a letter to TW, sent by TH asking for additional information on the Lasham Drain, particularly the manhole invert levels.

Research of similar projects

June Chatfield has visited Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire, where there may have been works similar to one of the King's Pond options. Unfortunately, this is not open to the public.

ACTION - NB to add information to website.

ACTION - DH will circulate references to a project identified from the River Restoration Centre links already distributed

ACTION - DH requested a further copy of the Pond Book for circulation amongst group members. NB to order.

Local Drainage

TP had drafted letters for the Town Clerk to send to Hampshire Highways and for DH to send to the SE Water requesting information on road and surface water run-off into the pond and upstream river

Land Ownership

TH and TP are working on clarification of ownership and responsibilities around the dam and weir.

Trees

DH has distributed RPS tree survey (2024), which included proposals on tree

management. There is no point in doing any planting until the selected Option is implemented, but we can undertake coppicing, thinning out and removal of fallen trees. Much of this is overdue maintenance. HC has identified tree contractors with the experience and equipment to work over or near water.

ACTION – HC to prepare tender

5. Current Investigations

All covered in the review of actions above.

6. Tenders for Stage One Design

Currently held pending arrangement of presentations by tenderers and clarification of ownerships around the weir.

JQ is concerned that the tender has been sent out doesn't include exactly how far past the weir the flood modelling needs to go to. It was agreed that this is a clarification question for the tenderers at interview.

7. Discussions of Next Steps

ACTION - DH and NB to discuss what needs to be included in the next monthly update on website and for circulation to the mailing list.

ACTION - RD is going to see what he can find out about what is included in the terms of leases of properties at Waterside Court regarding the watercourses through the site.

ACTION – DH and TH to discuss program

ACTION – Briefing of councillors is now necessary. (TH & DH)

8. Collation & Storage of Information

Investigations over the past few months has uncovered a lot of information about the pond and related matters. It is important that this is properly collated and stored for future reference. This includes information on the history of the pond.

ACTION - TH, TP DH and NB to go identify all the information and assemble in folders.

ACTION - NB to update Google Drive for everyone.

ACTION – CA to write up the history of the Pond from the collected sources

9. Agree date for next Task & Finish Group Meeting

Thursday 23rd October: 16 Market Square 10:00am – 11:30am

Thursday 20th November: Town Hall, Market Square 10:00am – 11:30am