



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Monday 9 February 2026

Present: Councillor Don Hammond - Chair (DH)
Councillor John Quincey (JQ)
Councillor Chris Botten (CB)
Tom Horwood – Town Clerk (TH)
Hayley Carter - Deputy Town Clerk (HC)
Natalie Beckell – Alton Town Council (NB)
Cathy Ayres – Resident representative (CA)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Ryan Doran – Resident representative (RD)
Eric Phillips – Residents representative (EP)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)

1. Apologies

Angie Owens - Resident representative

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026 were proposed by EP and JQ seconded, with voting in favour.

3. Feedback from Full Council on 4th February

This was a very lengthy meeting, with a large number of written representations received prior to the meeting, all supportive of progressing with investigating two options and making an informed decision on the future of the Pond, and many members of the public who attended wishing to speak. The meeting was entirely dedicated to the Pond.

Councillors discussed the results of the parish poll and resolved to note them, making no changes to the resolution of 10th December to proceed with Stage One, which will investigate the two options. The updated terms of Reference were approved as tabled; DH was appointed as Chair; all non-council members were confirmed; and CB was appointed as a councillor member along with DH and JQ.

While silt and pollution issues were discussed in relation to the Stage One tender, it was agreed that these matters should be progressed as a separate project.

The Council also resolved not to suspend the egg oiling programme.

4. **Terms of Reference**

All changes were approved by Full Council.

5. **Invitation to Tender for Stage One**

This can be published and sent out to relevant parties once the final changes have been made and dates set.

The following points are to be added in:

- Geology - TP and DH
- Need for a Risk Register, Key Assumptions and concerns from the successful bidder

ACTION – DH and TH to update the ITT with the agreed points and circulate to the T&FG for comments

ACTION – DH and HC to update the dates in the ITT and confirm availability of panel members

ACTION – HC and DH to pull together the CIL application

6. **Review of actions**

Programme

Can now be updated following the ITT delays and the parish poll.

ACTION - DH to update the programme and circulate draft by email.

Water Environment

Still waiting to hear back.

ACTION: TH to chase for a response

Environment Agency

At the previous meeting they said they would put us in touch with the river team but as yet there has been no contact from them.

TP is still waiting to hear back about the FOI he sent but he expects a reply imminently.

As the option we are now looking at for the Pond and River option does not have the continuity downstream it was considered important to make sure the EA is aware and ask for their opinion. It was also considered important to get their view on the Lasham Drain. We understand from discussion with Thames Water engineers that diversion of the Lasham Drain was under discussion with the EA some years ago. That discussion ceased when Thames Water decided not to fund the work.

ACTION: TH to chase up about Rivers Team

ACTION – DH to draft something for TH to send to update the EA and get their opinion on the updated Pond and River option and the Lasham Drain

Ecology

We need to do testing of the pond (invertebrates, macrophytes, condition of the water) this spring / summer.

There was discussion of silting and pollution. TP suggested that we do silt testing at various points to determine particle size and chemical testing so we can work out specific pollution points. Particle size would be useful in the design of silt traps.

DH mentioned he had been on a course on hydro morphology and would distribute the notes on silt from the course.

There was a discussion about Canada Geese droppings, with TP saying he has researched each adult produces about 2lb a day and they have been found to contain E.Coli, Salmonella and Chlamydia, among other things. It was felt testing should be done of this both in the water and on land as it may be necessary to put up warning signs. It was noted DNA testing should be included so we can verify which kind of animals / birds this comes from.

ACTION – Arrange testing of pond, silt in river and pond, pollution and droppings in the spring / summer

ACTION: DH to circulate notes

Tree Works

JQ thanked HC for organising the works, which have been very well received so far. An update was provided and JQ commented that the contractors have been very co-operative and considerate of the swans' nest and ensuring access was maintained thereto.

There is still a lot of work that need to happen, and they are yet to start work on the island. The logs are being used for six hibernacula and chippings will be delivered to the Jubilee depot to be used on ATC open spaces. There is also some wood to be retained for deadwood hedging.

Waterside Court and The Dam

Investigations are still underway into the construction due to the anticipated changes coming into force in around four years' time.

ACTION – TP to draft letter for TH to send to Taylor Wimpey

ACTION – TP and TH to request a meeting with Tony Day of Waterside Court once we have heard back from Taylor Wimpey

Thames Water

Still awaiting the information on the Lasham Drain. They also said they would check sewer plans and ensure they are correct.

ACTION – Chase in a couple of weeks if we have not heard back from them.

Lasham Drain

CA asked whether diverting this would push more silt downstream and whether the EA would have a position on this if it did so. TP commented that it is only a very short section that would be diverted, and the impact is likely to be negligible. In the long run it should be self-cleaning and an improvement. However, it was agreed to ask the EA's opinion on this.

ACTION – Ask for the EA's view on diverting the Lasham Drain

HCC Highways

TH heard back and sent the plans to TP showing which areas they are responsible for and where road drains go into the Wey. TP identified four important areas:

- New Odiham Road

- Tanhouse Lane (short section)
- High Street (unclear at this point – request further information)
- Drayman's Way

ACTION – TP to add more information into TH's response requesting further information

King's View is separate – it has all been adopted up to a certain point, but TP confirmed he has not yet been able to find an easement document giving permission for this to drain across ATC's land. He is continuing his research into this.

ACTION – TP to draft something to try to find such a document

DH suggested that Ashdell Road and King's View local pollution can be looked at as a separate sub-project. This will need input from a civil engineer.

ACTION – TH to contact local engineering companies and also to ask if HCC have a panel of consulting engineers for road and drainage work

SE Water

SEW have an ongoing project to make improvements to the Wey from its source downstream to Caker Stream but are not contemplating doing much through the Town Centre or at King's Pond. TH is in the process of organising a meeting to go through the project (ANP8). We are also expecting SEW to arrange a meeting to look at conclusions from the previous project (ANP7). ANP7 has little impact on King's Pond but does have relevance to flooding in the town. TP is awaiting a response to an FO request regarding ANP7 and ANP8.

7. **Date of next Community and Stakeholder Group Meeting**
Tuesday 14 April, 6:30pm, Town Hall.

8. **Collation & Storage of Information**
Nothing further to report.

ACTION – DH and NB to do next update for website and for sending out to mailing list

9. **Date of next meeting Task & Finish Group**

Monday 16 March 11:00am – 12:30pm (**changed to 23 March**)

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD

ACTION – DH and HC to evaluate timetable for ITT and then set evaluation date, date for presentations and further T&FG meeting