



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Monday 23 March 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)
Angie Owens - Resident representative (AO)

Eric Phillips – Residents representative (EP)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)

1. Apologies

Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Ryan Doran – Resident representative (RD)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 February 2026 were proposed by JQ and TP seconded, with voting in favour.

3. Progress on Tender for Stage One

The deadline for application is this Friday. HC said she would meet a councillor to open them on Saturday morning and circulate to the panel to give them time to read, then arrange a meeting early in the week to evaluate and go through the requirements for the presentations.

4. Review of actions

Programme

Update had been circulated.

Water Environment

Now under instruction to answer a few more questions and are in the process of completing that work. The group is hoping to get the answers in time to inform the ecology meeting on 22 April. The questions include whether the water from the pond would escape into the river channel through the chalk and whether the river channel would carry the silt.

Environment Agency

Their response to questions had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Environment Agency has a preference for the pond and river option, even if we are unable to achieve continuity of the river for the fish, and do not object to the other option. With regards the Lasham Drain, they agreed to investigate it, but there is the risk that the water would be lost into the aquifer before reaching the pond. TP felt it was still worth pursuing as any amount of clean water entering the pond would help with the eutrophication.

Ecology

Meeting is arranged for 22 April to specifically go through this. The alleged presence of a newt was noted.

Tree Works

It was noted that the majority of feedback has been extremely positive.

Waterside Court and The Dam

TP had drafted a letter which TH posted to the head office in Edinburgh but no response has been received. TP suggested getting HCC legal to give advice on the party wall law because there is a lot of investigation work we need to do on the dam in due course.

ACTION – TP and TH to request a meeting with Tony Day of Waterside Court

It was noted the dam is one of the highest risks to the project. At present, the pond volume is $<25,000\text{m}^3$ so it does not have to have regular inspections. However this threshold has already been lowered to $<10,000\text{m}^3$ in Scotland and Wales and England is likely to follow within a few years. We don't have any construction details for the dam.

ACTION – Add risk register as a standing agenda item to be continually added to and reported on.

Thames Water and HCC Highways

Answers have been received to the questions asked but the answers from HCC

are inadequate and they appear to be unaware where their road drains discharge into. It was agreed conversations need to be had with them about the way they are polluting the River Wey.

ACTION – TH to arrange meeting with HCC. It was agreed not to invite Thames Water to the same meeting at this point.

Lasham Drain

Nothing further to report other than the update from the Environment Agency above.

SE Water

SEW had arranged a meeting which some of the group had managed to attend online. They discussed the results of ANP7, which effectively means they must continue to extract the same amount at Lasham. They outlined plans to make improvements to the river near the Basingstoke Road / New Odiham Road junction and discussed the scope of ANP8, which asks whether they should cease extraction at Windmill Hill.

They also made the point that they will be struggling to supply the amount of new housing proposed for the area. Their plan is out of step with the new proposed housing levels because of the changes from government and so they will need time to improve their infrastructure. This is now a major planning issue.

5. Possible Civil Works sub-projects

TH, DH, TP & PE had met on site to consider works local to the pond. These include investigation of the dam and the need to improve drainage along Ashdell Road and around the entrance to the KP site

ACTION - DH to distribute notes.

6. CIL Application

Draft done but HC and DH to meet to go through prior to submission. Deadline for this application window is 1st May.

7. Date of next Community and Stakeholder Group Meeting

Tuesday 14 April, 6:30pm, Town Hall. The public will be welcome to attend this to observe.

8. **Collation & Storage of Information**

Nothing further to report.

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

Monday 27th April at 11.00am, Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD

Also, there is a meeting on 22 April to look at ecology which is for members of both the T&FG and the C&SFG to attend, along with invitees from other ecological groups in the town, our ecologists and possibly Water Environment. DH said they were trying to get someone along who knows specifically about ponds and someone who knows specifically about rivers. He encouraged everyone to come along and participate.

ACTION – NB to investigate putting bat boxes (do the Hampshire Bat Group provide?) up on the trees along the Watercress Line, possibly on the outskirts of King’s Pond and at Flood Meadows.