



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Monday 27 April 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)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Angie Owens - Resident representative (AO)
Eric Phillips – Residents representative (EP)

1. Apologies

Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)
Cathy Ayres – Resident representative (CA)
Ryan Doran – Resident representative (RD)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23 March 2026 were proposed by JQ and EP seconded, with voting in favour.

3. Feedback from Community and Stakeholder Group Meeting on 14 April

The meeting was mainly about feeding back information to the C&SFG and the few members of the public who also came along. One point which was noted was that the drainage from the Racecourse Estate needs adding to the list of subprojects.

ACTION – Add drainage from the Racecourse Estate to the list of sub-projects

4. Water Environment Technical Note & Revised Drawing

The document had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. It answered several questions which had been put to them about the Pond and River option. In summary it says it would be difficult to keep the full length of the river silt free. The drawing includes an on-line 'upper pond'. The river downstream of this pond

is shown with a fall that is sufficient for it to stay clear of silt. To meet all the criteria set, it includes retaining the island.

A revised drawing was tabled at the meeting that shows more wetland around an Upper Pond that is reduced in area. Also, the public access possibilities. DH stressed that this is only one step in developing possibilities – it is not intended as a final design

ACTION – There needs to be a more technical conversation with the Environment Agency to see if they have any powers which can be used to help us achieve the objectives they outlined. DH to draft for TH to send.

ACTION – Update the winning bidder with where we have got to in the investigations at the initial briefing stage, once they have been appointed.

ACTION – Add Water Environment Technical Note to the documents on the ATC website (NB)

ACTION – Send a closing down letter to Water Environment as we are now moving onto the Stage One tenderer. DH to draft for TH to send.

5. **Stage One Tender Outcome**

The recommendation going to Full Council on 6 May is to appoint Five Rivers. They were very impressive in their presentation. The order will include the Flood Risk Assessment which has been costed separately.

6. **Feedback from Ecology Briefing and Discussion on 22 April**

This was a very productive meeting and included people from both the Task & Finish Group and the Community and Stakeholder group along with representatives from the Alton Natural History Society, AVLAN, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Wey Catchment Partnership, River Wey Trust, Ecology Partnership and Water Environment.

ACTION – Book invertebrates survey (subject to sufficient remaining in the approved budget)

ACTION – Book silt sampling (subject to sufficient remaining in the approved budget)

ACTION – Will need a fish survey at some point but now is not the right time due to expense

7. Councillor Briefing on 29 April and Full Council on 6 May

It was discussed how important it is that councillors be given enough information to enable them to make a decision and be aware of the sub-projects and risks.

The topics to cover include:

- The dam
- Ecology
- Technical information
- Confirmation of budget
- CIL application
- Separate engineering sub-projects (not out of KP budget)

8. Review of actions

Programme

About to appoint contractor to get us to public consultation.

Environment Agency

We have never had the full team response. TH has chased. A specific question has been asked about the Lasham Drain and we have asked for a meeting about that. As mentioned in actions in point 4 above we are now going to write to ask for their help regarding the downstream chamber.

Ecology

Invertebrates study to be arranged. This is very important as they are at the bottom of the food chain and so if there are none, we would have a problem.

Invasive Species

This was included in the tree works but the full treatment could not be carried out at the time of year the main work was done. A first treatment has now been applied.

Waterside Court and The Dam

There has still been no response from the freehold owner of the property. TH to take legal advice.

ACTION – TH to take legal advice.

Thames Water

Nothing to report.

HCC Highways

TP received response to FOI request but not sure they have provided everything asked for. TP to feedback on return from holiday.

HCC Highways have agreed to meet to discuss the drainage issues on Ashdell Road. Date to be arranged.

SE Water

The person leading on the project has now left so this is a bit of a setback. Try to find and communicate with new lead.

9. Possible Civil Works sub-projects

We need to find a suitable consulting engineer to do an initial desktop study on the dam, and to advise on any investigations.

ACTION – TH to investigate engineers.

10. CIL Application

In progress – HC and DH

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 1 June at 11.00am – 12.30pm, Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD