



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Monday 1 June 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)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)
Eric Phillips – Resident representative (EP)

1. Apologies

Cathy Ayres – Resident representative (CA)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Angie Owens - Resident representative (AO)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 April 2026 were proposed by DH and EP seconded, with voting in favour (TP abstained due to absence).

3. Councillor Briefing

The briefing covered everything in depth, including concerns and risks to the project, so councillors were fully informed prior to making a decision to appoint a Stage One contractor.

4. Stage One design appointment

Five Rivers were appointed at the Full Council meeting on 6 May and have been in touch to arrange a preliminary meeting.

5. Ecology

- a. Invertebrate Survey – this has now been started, and the first survey will have taken place in May with further site visits in June and late summer. The report will be expected after the final inspection.
- b. Silt Sampling – **ACTION – TH to get quotes and arrange this.**

c. Invasive Species – treatment of these are ongoing.

JQ said species he had noted over the last few weeks include dragonflies, swallows and fish. HC noted that the barley straw sausages were going back in the pond tomorrow morning and as soon as the latest order of barley straw extract is received more of that will be added to the pond. This should help with the growth of the algae which is particularly bad at the moment as is very smelly.

ACTION – DH to contact his fisheries contact to see what fish might be in the pond.

ACTION – signs to go back up to try to reduce feeding of wildfowl.

6. Review of actions

Water Environment

A closing down letter was sent this morning.

Environment Agency

TH has sent the email to the EA to enquire if there are any actions they can take or assistance, they can give ATC to meet the objectives they have for the river, for example by working with Waterside Court and facilitating work on the chamber downstream of the dam.

The lease the EA had on the chambers ran out some years ago and they are operating on a yearly tenancy. They have been asked to ensure they get a proper lease in place again.

ACTION – TH to chase up initial enquiries and follow up on outstanding points as appropriate / necessary. Outstanding queries:

- a. Lease for chamber
- b. Thoughts on help with Waterside Court
- c. Incomplete initial response from the Rivers people
- d. Lasham Drain

Waterside Court and the Dam

TH has still received no response from the head office of the freeholder in Edinburgh. He has not contacted Waterside Court recently. Engineers have been identified who can be asked for a fee proposal to offer advice.

Thames Water (TW) and Hampshire County Council (HCC)

ACTION – TP to go through the information on each of the discharges from TW and HCC and pull them together into one map, then ask each to confirm each drain is not polluting the river / pond.

ACTION – TH to chase HCC about the request for a meeting.

SE Water

SEW have not yet appointed a new project manager for ANP8, as far as we are aware.

Engineering Sub Projects

ACTION – DH to add Racecourse Estate drains to the list and arrange a discussion with HCC.

ACTION – TP to create a page per problem when he has time.

7. Preparing for Public Consultation

NB has started drafting a consultation document and will circulate to HC, DH and TH for comments and then to the T&FG. Main points raised were:

- The consultation must be complete, and decision made by February to avoid the run up to the election period
- Accessibility is very important – varied times, days and locations of information sessions
- Do an updated version of the online video presentation
- Information packs to be available for people to view in locations around the town at their convenience
- The consultation needs to be robust in order to avoid having to repeat all this in the near future. The council needs to be able to make a proper decision based on the results
- We may need advice from an independent company on how to run a controlled opinion poll – online and/or in paper format, so we can ensure there is a good response across the town and people cannot fill it in multiple times
- It is important to check understanding of the project and the options

ACTION – NB to circulate draft consultation proposal.

ACTION – TH to investigate survey companies.

8. Date of next meetings

T&FG meeting - Tuesday 23 June, 9.30am – 11am, Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD

T&FG meeting - Monday 13 July, 11.00am – 12.30pm, Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD

C&SFG meeting - Wednesday 15 July 6.30pm – for members of the group and T&FG to go through plans for the consultation - Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD