



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Monday 13 July 2026

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

1. Apologies

Tom Horwood – Town Clerk (TH)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 were approved with two amendments.

3. Consultation Plan

A workshop was held for councillors on 1st July, with some of the same concerns being raised as were raised by this group.

Dates have been changed as councillors were concerned about the timing with everything having to be prepared very quickly once the work by Five Rivers is completed, and therefore wanted it to go to Full Council in February rather than December. They also wanted to see an 8-week consultation rather than a 6-week. HC and NB pointed out that the feedback from previous consultations had been against holding consultations over the winter, and particularly over Christmas, and so that was the reason for aiming for September / October. However, an additional week has been added to the consultation period in order to attempt to address this, so it will be 9 weeks, running from 2nd November to 4th January. The plus side is that there is more time to pull all the information together and get the wording correct.

The Council approved the budget for the consultation at the Full Council meeting on 8th July. TH has asked for recommendations of companies to carry out the survey and the analysis but has yet to approach them.

ACTION – TH to approach survey companies as soon as possible.

The flyer being posted out to all households will contain information about the consultation, including dates and locations where people can find out all the information and how they can complete the survey.

It was noted that it is important to keep everything sent out neutral so as not to prejudice what people think. They need to be allowed to form their own opinion once they have all the facts.

Members asked that we get all the consultation dates in the Herald if possible.

It was noted that DH, TH and HC are having fortnightly catch-ups with Five Rivers to keep the communication flowing both ways and ensure the project is on track.

4. Stage One Design Progress

There was discussion of the initial drawings with lots of notes made to feed back to Five Rivers.

CA pointed out that it is important that Five Rivers are aware of some of the concerns that have already been raised by residents, for example the reduction of the size of the pond in the P&R option and wanting to maintain the largest body of water possible.

5. Engineering Sub-projects Update

A meeting with HCC Highways engineers last week was interesting and productive. There were some surprises, such as HCC's drawings show the gullies draining into soakaways but they actually drain into one big drain that then empties into King's Pond. HCC will flush through and survey the drains and update their plans. There are also a few other actions that they can hopefully take to reduce the flooding on Ashdell Road but we need as much evidence of the situation as possible to prove the need for improvements.

ACTION – Ensure the consultation makes clear that we are trying to get something done about the run-off from drains into KP.

6. Review of Outstanding Actions from last meeting

- HC met with Simon Bizley regarding placing bat boxes at King's Pond and Flood Meadows and several locations have been identified. It was agreed that ATC should go ahead with this.
- HCC Legal is drafting letters for Waterside Ct ManCo and the freeholder. They expect to send them to TH on 17/7.
- Civil engineers. Requests sent to 3 on the approved list. The independent one bounced back, and TH cannot find him online. He substituted with a different engineer.
- One reply has been received stating they do not have capacity for this work. No response from others yet. TH will chase those who have not replied and send to others on the govt list when he is back. They will be gradually further afield.
- Survey companies. TH has sought some recommendations for companies and will send out requests for quotes when he is back.
- Angling. TH has sent a draft of a response as agreed and will send when he returns.

7. Date of next meetings

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

T&FG meeting – Tuesday 11th August, 9.30 – 11am, Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, GU34 1HD