



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Tuesday 11th August 2026

Present: Councillor Don Hammond - Chair (DH)
Councillor John Quincey (JQ)
Tom Horwood – Town Clerk (TH)
Hayley Carter - Deputy Town Clerk (HC)
Natalie Beckell – Alton Town Council (NB)
Nic Budd – Alton Town Council (NicB)
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

Councillor Chris Botten (CB)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

On the proposal of DH, seconded by JQ, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 July 2026 were approved.

3. Feedback from Community & Stakeholder Meeting

The main points that came out of the meeting were the importance of the consultation and the vote not being manipulated. The value of an independent company was discussed.

4. Consultation Plan

Minor amendments had been made following the C&SFG meeting which included dates, making sure it is seen as a fresh start not an update and moving the Alton Natural History Society. A further update was requested:

ACTION – NB to update ‘full costings’ to ‘full cost estimates’ and add Thames Water to list of statutory consultees

Briefing dates have been updated since the change of dates. Other members of group to contribute to the presentation and Q&A sessions, not just the Chair.

ACTION – HC to send dates of briefings to all members of the T&F group

JQ raised concerns about putting dates in the diary before all the information is together. HC confirmed these dates would be confirmed on 14th September once the information had been received from Five Rivers and before the flyer is to be sent out. JQ was concerned that the public would not have the information on the engineering sub projects but it was pointed out the risks would be made clear to the public during the consultation and they would be told what we know so far, what we still need to find out, what the risks are and a worst-case scenario. If possible, they would be given estimated costs associated with any risks.

5. Tim Pinchen – Pollution into Upper Wey

TP sent a report which was circulated to the group prior to the meeting. He pointed out to the meeting that as important as this is, the T&FG have clear instructions that relate to KP and this is ‘mission creep’ and as the T&FG has a limited life may not be something it can see through. He suggested a new group might be set up to continue with this as much of the work would be laborious and labour intensive, chasing up the various bodies who are able to do something about it, as much of it is outside the powers to the Town Council. TH to take to councillors and the Northern Wey Community Trust to discuss the next steps.

ACTION – TH to circulate the report to councillors in the first instance

6. John Quincey – Queries from Full Council

Councillor Kellermann raised an amendment at the last Full Council meeting to say we must include all costs when we go to public consultation. The amendment was unnecessary as this had already been stated. The amendment was defeated. However, JQ was concerned that because it had been put forward and voted against it will create the impression that the Council is not going to publish all cost estimates, which is far from the truth. He therefore just wanted it to be reaffirmed that all cost estimates will be included as part of the consultation. This has already been published in the consultation document and was reaffirmed by the T&F group.

7. Stage One Design Progress

There was an on-site meeting last week with Five Rivers which was attended by TH, HC and TP. There was lots of focus on the edges of the pond, the ecology and the use of the open space.

DH had a Teams meeting with them on Thursday which focused on silt traps and the edges and indicated they are leaning more towards natural edgings with planting used to strengthen and retain the edges rather than vertical artificial barriers such as the edgings that were used 28 years ago that, over time, had proved less effective.

As soon as there is more information it will be circulated to the group. There is another meeting with them on Thursday this week.

8. Engineering Sub-projects Update

Most of this had already been discussed earlier and is noted above.

9. Review of Outstanding Actions from previous meetings

TH had received a positive response from one engineer which had been circulated. It was agreed he should take them up on their proposal and pay for the work to be carried out.

An update was given on the progress of attempts to communicate with the owners of Waterside Court.

10. AOB

The current level of the aquifer is 102.196 compared to 102.12 at this time last year, so very much the same.

11. Date of next meetings

C&SFG meeting – it was agreed to postpone the meeting on Wednesday 12th August until Thursday 27th August as there was very little to report on and only two people had replied to the meeting invite to say they would attend. The new meeting will be at 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 – it was agreed to send out suggested dates once we have met with Five Rivers on Thursday.