



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Tuesday 9 September 2026

Present: Councillor Don Hammond - Chair (DH)
Councillor Chris Botten (CB)
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 (NTB)
Cathy Ayres – Resident representative (CA)
Ryan Doran – Resident representative (RD)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Angie Owens - Resident representative (AO)
Eric Phillips – Resident representative (EP)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

On the proposal of DH, seconded by JQ, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 August 2026 were approved.

3. Review of Five Rivers Design Information

The designs were discussed in great detail again, along with initial observations already raised by DH.

Design 2A (Dredging +):

- Average water level is very important
- Make sure on proposed drawings we show where people will be able to sit around the pond and public areas
- Ask 5R to calculate volumes of water in the deeper areas of the pond
- Show on plans where water / drains go into the pond for purposes of public consultation; don't assume everyone knows just because we do

- Wetland area – not keeping the island is a departure from the brief. Although it would be an island during breeding season it was agreed a channel needs to be kept all the way around the island all year round.

Design 3C (Pond & River):

- Yet to confirm what they are going to do where the water flows out of the site
- “Existing planting” on SE side is actually made-up ground and needs to be clear on plans
- The lower and less-intrusive the new path running through the site is the better, so it does not obstruct views across the site – need to balance this with potential water levels
- Presentationally, the extension to the island needs to be green for the public consultation
- Do we need a silt trap where the river comes into the site? Need to factor in the maintenance cost of this
- Need a diagram of how the pond is at the moment for the consultation

4. **The “Do Nothing” option**

TP said it is not so much putting this forward as an option but more a matter of explaining what would happen in this case and demonstrating why the Council decided they need to do something.

What would happen if nothing were done was discussed along with potential timeframes.

5. **Consultation Plan**

The plan was discussed in detail and amendments made as necessary.

ACTION – NB, NTB and DH to update further and add more detail.

6. **The “Flyer”**

NB had made further updates to this. Some minor changes were made by the group.

7. **Consultation Information**

A plan for who would pull each bit of information together and who would present each bit had been put together and was discussed and amended.

8. **Appointment of a Consultant**

The proposal from the preferred company was discussed in more detail.

9. **Review of Outstanding Actions from previous meetings**

Due to the meeting already running over time this was postponed to the next meeting.

10. **Date of next meetings**

It was agreed that weekly meetings would be necessary for the foreseeable future and would be arranged for 1.30pm on Wednesdays until the consultation is up and running.