



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Wednesday 23 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)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Eric Phillips and Angie Owens.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

On the proposal of JQ, seconded by CA, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 were approved.

3. Review of Five Rivers Design Information

Nine documents had been received on Friday and the group had managed to analyse them and get their responses back to Five Rivers by the end of Monday. It is important the group decide whether a full flood modelling / risk assessment is required or if what they have already sent would be suitable. It was felt that the information provided so far would be insufficient to meet the demands of the public consultation. A further online meeting is scheduled with Five Rivers for tomorrow (Thursday).

4. Progress on Consultation

The group ran through and discussed all the information required for the consultation, who is undertaking each part of the work and how it may be presented. The information to pull together includes:

- What are the problems with King's Pond
- Ecological summary
- The condition of the pond
- The 'Do Nothing' option
- Option drawings and specifications, landscaping
- Budget costs
- Ecological impact notes
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Advantages / disadvantages
- Risk Register
- Control of feeding
- Sources of funding
- Climate Change

The flyer was then discussed and further amendments made. It was felt that the descriptions of each option should be one factual sentence each, and people should be directed to where they can find out more information, rather than trying to show the benefits of each option which can be subjective.

ACTION – NB to make final amendments to the flyer and send to printers.

The group then went through the budget and what costs there may still be which may require a request to Council:

- Ecological Impact Assessment from Ecology Partnership
- Fee for Ecology Partnership to attend two of the drop-in sessions
- Chemical analysis of the silt deposited last dredging
- New display boards
- Printing of materials for display
- Venue costs for public briefings and drop-in sessions

ACTION - Officers to look at these figures and work out if Full Council needs to approve further funding in October.

5. Review of Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings

There were no outstanding actions to review.

6. **Programme**

NTB is keeping the programme on track and it was noted there is lots of work members can be getting on with while waiting for Five Rivers to complete their work. The project plan lists the names of people responsible for each task.

ACTION – Everyone to continue working on the tasks allocated to them and report on progress at next week’s meeting.

7. **Date of next meetings**

There are weekly meetings on the Task & Finish Group at 1.30pm on Wednesdays for the foreseeable future.