

When was the old pond filled in?

Evidence (from old Parish Council Minutes and elsewhere):

02-Jun-1958	The Parish Council meeting suggested that if the pond at the north end of the village was filled in and grassed over, it would greatly improve the look of the village. It was resolved to ask the District Council to carry out this work.
22-Sep-1958	It was reported at the Parish Council meeting that the District Council did not have the soil to carry out the work. Mr N. Whiteley said that he would try to find some.
18-Oct-1961	It was reported at the Parish Council meeting that <i>“Mr Coning, Pond Farm, had complained that this water-course – which was originally the overflow from the pond – was been filled with refuse and the tank silted up with soil. The question as to whether this was a District or County Council problem arose.”</i> It was agreed that Mr N. Whiteley would check.
19-Apr-1966	At the Parish Council meeting <i>“it was pointed out that permission to fill in the pond had been given by the Parish Council to NRCC but that the area was messy, untidy and needed some surface soil and the area levelled so that it could be re-seeded”</i> .
1962/1964	Sharon High, now living in Perth, Australia, has confirmed to me that she remembers playing in the old pond and collecting tadpoles as an eight-year-old when she lived in Ouseburn House (the old Fox and Goose Inn) in 1962. It was still there when she left in 1964. Her reminiscences can be found in the 2018 edition of <i>Alne Annals</i> on p147.

Conclusion:

Despite the Parish Council setting out to fill in the pond in 1958, the old pond was still there in 1964. The Minute of 19-Apr-1966 would indicate that it was mainly filled in by 1966.

So, the answer is between 1964 and 1966 but that it did seem to be a protracted business!

Please give any further evidence or information to Robert Brech on 838265 or brech28@btinternet.com

Robert Brech
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