



Meeting	Finance, Premises and general purpose
Date	Wednesday 25 th June 2025
Report Title	25.014 Grass keep management plan
Author:	Clerk, Lucy

At R&L in May 2025, committee considered a more robust management plan for the 2 areas of grass keep at Ashmead. Committee liked the idea of expanding the biodiversity of the sites in principle and recommended that the Clerk speak with the existing lease holder to ensure anything we recommended was achievable.

His feedback was – we do most of this on our own ground anyway. I think that it is quite achievable to increase the biodiversity and wildflowers through management. The three-year hedge cutting is a bad idea due to the Land running alongside the public highway. Road side hedges should be cut but internal left. Current agreement makes no mention of hedges so this should be added in.

When it comes to tenders I think that it will be very off putting and will devalue the land on a rental basis so really it's up to the council whether they're happy that they're going to lose revenue potentially, but they will have wildflowers. Obviously if you move forward with the wildflower idea when it goes for tender, it does mean that it will need to be stated in the advert as it's not just a Grass Keep agreement, it will then change to a sustainable farming incentive grass agreement.

All very useful and I've made amendments to the management plan as recommended. We also discussed the timing of the tender as it currently runs to the end of July which is in the middle of the grazing season. Clerks recommendation is to increase the lease to 5 years through to December 2031. Due to this change, a quick FPGP will be called in July to award the tender.