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Date: 4th June 2018

Word Count 340

PRESS RELEASE - Land Grab by Crematorium Owners

Watermead Parish Councillors have objected to what they believe to be an attempted land grab and underhand tactics by Crematoria Management Ltd, generally known as Westerleigh, the owners of the intended Crematorium.

It has been made clear from the outset that the access road to the site is narrow and is bounded on both sides by land belonging to the Parish Council. Despite this Westerleigh's contractors have constructed a wide soil embankment on either side of the road which they have planted with grass seed. They are now mowing this area regularly and have ignored a request from the Parish Council's solicitor to stop.

On Bank Holiday Monday the Chairman and Parish Clerk observed an employee of Westerleigh who was mowing on this land. When asked, he stated that he has been instructed to do so by Crematoria Management Ltd and that he had been given to believe it belongs to the crematorium.

The employee also said that he believed the crematorium would be opening in about two weeks' time, despite the fact that it still doesn't have Planning Permission. Contrary to claims by Westerleigh, Planning Permission was not granted at Aylesbury Vale District Council's planning meeting on April 18th. The application has been referred to the Secretary of State for adjudication and even if passed back to AVDC there are a large number of conditions which would have to be met before Planning Permission could be given.

Parish Council Vice Chairman Adrian Schwab said "we are tired of the irresponsible and bullying actions of Westerleigh. They have attempted to intimidate parish councillors by suggesting huge financial penalties might ensue for doing their job, they have falsely tried to imply that the Parish Council was responsible for vandalism and now they are brazenly trying to take over land which belongs to the people of Watermead.

In addition, they now appear set to open a crematorium which still does not have valid Planning Permission. We are calling on Aylesbury Vale District Council to ensure that this is not allowed to happen".

For further information please contact

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Chairman Cllr Sue Severn on 01296 336575