Statutory Declaration

March 2024

For the record I owned and lived at Bevisfield, Cow Drove, Chilmark from February 2006 to October 2017. At the request of the Chilmark Parish Council, I previously made a statement in July 2023 regarding the use of the large storage barn only on a specific date in July 2012. These comments referred to a planning application for alterations to the barn for a proposed Aparthotel. I answered that query to the best of my recollection and have no reason to change what I said. However it is NOT a "fact" that I "stated" that the "buildings" plural "were not used for agricultural purposes as of 2012, or thereafter". This is I am afraid a total misrepresentation of both the question I was asked and the answer I gave. At Bevisfield Farm we had two flocks of 30 chickens (60 laying birds in total) in a section of the 2 acre field directly west of the house, plus a flock of initially Shetlands, then Wiltshire Horn sheep, grazing that field and the two larger fields to the north, which were only dispersed when we sold Bevisfield Farm in 2017. The feed store was exactly that, a feed store and it doubled as a lambing shed when required. The yard was the parking area for a 75hp Kubota tractor with loader, a four ton tipping trailer, a livestock trailer, a field topper, a 10ft roller, 12ft tine harrows, dung forks, lifting forks, a hydraulic bale squeeze, circa 40 sheep hurdles, a sheep turnover crate, a sheep run and foot bath. This agricultural equipment was sold immediately prior to our vacating Bevisfield Farm in Oct 2017. The farm had a Parish Holding Number (Agricultural holding Number CPH 45/264/0034) a Livestock/Flock number (UK331607) and flock record, as required by DEFRA. Also Bevisfield Farm was part of the Rural Payments scheme throughout our stewardship. In conclusion and to be absolutely clear, the buildings and the land, for the three years prior to the sale of the property in 2017, were not used for a use incidental to the residential use.

It has been suggested by Mr.Carpendale, that what I have said could be taken as a direct contradiction of my statement from last July, when I commented on the application to change the exterior of the large barn. There is no contradiction whatsoever; I was asked a specific question by the Parish Council, I was asked what was in the storage barn in July 2012? I answered this accurately to the best of my recollection.

I would like to point out that the tractor and the livestock trailer were regularly parked inside the barn for security reasons.

In conclusion with regard to the small boarding kennel business at Bevisfield: the three timber kennel units were contained within the curtilage of Bevisfield residence and garden; it did not detract from the agricultural activities of the barn, feed store and yard. Nor did the commercial activity of the boarding kennel business involve the stables or tack room.

Declared before me MARTIN THOMAS as a Statutory Declaration, this 14th March 2024.

David Williams.

[redacted]

[redacted]