Statutory Declaration

of

Mrs M Whitfield
Clay Lake Farm
Breach Road,
Brown Edge
Staffordshire Moorlands
ST6 8TR

I am Margaret Whitfield. I am married to Mr Calvin Whitfield. We live together at Clay Lake Farm (the site) which is a bungalow. The bungalow and its garden on shown in red on the plan attached to this declaration.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW1" a copy of a plan upon which is marked the boundary of the site edged red.

My husband and I moved into this farm on 01/11/2015 Together we have lived in this bungalow as our sole and main dwelling since that date. Living with us here is my daughter Cody.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW2" a copy of the land Registry title showing title SF612338.

The Land Registry title confirms that the title was transferred to Ryeland Developments Limited on 11th December 2015. This is a property company (Company number 05840194) for which I am the sole Director.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW3" a copy of the Companies House details for Ryeland Developments Limited.

Upon acquiring the site we began to make improvements to the bungalow to modernise it and to alter it to our taste. We believed that these works did not all require planning permission, This proved not be the case and following investigation by the council's enforcement officer 2 planning applications were made submitted and approved to regularise the works we had done to our home.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW4" a copy of the planning decision notices in respect of extensions to our bungalow on the subject site.

I manage and run my business, Ryeland Property Company on a full time basis from its office Unit 2, Shelton New Road, Cockshute Industrial Estate, Stoke-On-Trent. I also manage and run my home at Clay Lake Farm (the site) as my sole house for me and my husband and daughter.

I do not and I have never worked in faming or any other related agricultural business or activity. My company Ryeland Developments Limited is a construction and estate business trading mainly across North Staffordshire.

I have paid full Council tax on Clay Lake Farm since moving in to live here. It is a valuation band G property.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW5" a copy of the payments of Council tax payable from 2015 to 2020.

Before I moved into the bungalow (the site) it had been the home of Bill Bell and his wife, Jean Bell. Mr Bell was a well known local businessman who was the Chairman of Port Vale Football Club and owner of WT Bell motor dealership. Mr Bell was born in Burslem on 21st January 1932. Mr Bell lived until the age of 81 and died; after a period in hospital, at Clay Lake Farm in February 2013. An obituary about Mr Bell from "The Independent" confirms that he lived at Brown Edge in Staffordshire Moorlands.

There is now produced to me and marked describing Mr Bell's life and which refers to his Brown Edge home.

There is now produced to me and marked "MW7" an extract from Companies House which confirms Mr and Mrs Bell's business interests and their correspondence address at Clay Lake Farm (the site).

There is now produced to me and marked "MW8" an obituary of Mr Bell that appeared in The Independent on Thursday 28th March 2013.

After Mr Bell died in February 2013 his wife and family resolved to sell the bungalow (Clay Lake Farm - the Site). My husband and I bought the bungalow (the Site) from the Estate of Mr Bell.

I understood that Mr Bell had owned and lived in the bungalow at Clay Lake Farm (the site) since at least 1986 acquiring it along with the original farmhouse from a Mr Montford.

The Land Registry tile (see MW 2) corroborates this because it confirm (see A.2) that he and his wife, Jean sold off other land i.e the original farmhouse to Mr and Mrs Higgins on 20th April 2007. Mr Bell retained ownership of and continued to live in Clay Lake farm bun-glow (the site) until his death.

Mr Bell had obtained planning permission for side and rear extensions and a four car garage to Clay Lake Farm (the site) in 1986.

This is consistent with the council's own planning record (MW9) which shows the following relevant planning permissions:

* 12/11/1986 Application SMD/1986/0945

  Approval granted to Mr Bell for SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AND LINKED FOUR CAR GARAGE at Clay Lake Farm

* 30/09/2005 Applications 05/00946/FUL and 04/01476/LBC

Approval granted to Mr Bell for the refurbishment and extensions to Clay Lake farmhouse.

* 22/06/2010 Application No: 10/00335/FUL

Approval granted to Mr Bell for Proposed new access leading into agricultural fields on land to the rear of Clay Lake Farm

There is now produced to me and marked "MW9" copies of relevant planning permissions.

In summary.

I am not working and never have worked in agriculture and have lived in Clay Lake Farm bungalow full time since 01/11/2015. Before I lived here the bungalow was lived in by Mr Bell and his wife and neither of them worked in farming. Evidence to corroborate these matters are attached to this declaration.

I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act 1835.

Signed .....

Declared on Monday 6th July 2020