

**In the matter of the use of a building**

**at**

**Little Barksore Farm**

**Lower Halstow**

**Sittingbourne**

**Kent ME9 7ED**

**STATUTORY DECLARATION**

**of**

**Mr Paul Goodhew**

**I, Mr Paul Goodhew OF Little Barksore Farm, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7ED**

**DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE:**

1. I make this statutory declaration in respect of the use of the building at Little Barksore Farm, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7ED, as indicated on the site plan attached to this Declaration as **Exhibit 1**. All references to the 'Site' relate to that which is indicated as by the red line shown at **Exhibit 1**, and all references to the 'Building' or 'Buildings' hereafter relate to those shown at **Exhibit 1**.

2. I have been advised of the requirements within Section 194(1) of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 as amended which states that if any person, for the purpose of procuring a particular decision on an application for the issue of such a certificate, who:-

Knowingly or recklessly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular;

With intent to deceive, uses any document which is false or misleading in a material particular; or

With intent to deceive, withholds any material information,

He shall be guilty of an offence. This statement is made fully and truthfully as an expression of my best understanding and knowledge.

3. The Building was originally used as a pack house as part of the farm when fruit being produced here up until circa 2004 (the cold store is still there) and general purpose farm building since that date.

4. I can confirm that myself and my brother Mr Nigel Goodhew have diversified into providing contractual fencing services for other farmers in the area. I therefore acknowledge that, upon visiting the Site, there is likely to be some fencing materials (wire and posts) stored within and around the Building. However, our family remains actively involved in farming and, as such, those fencing items that have been present

at the Building are only there on the basis that they have been deemed suitable for future use at this Site, as part of the ongoing general maintenance and upkeep required. Indeed, I can verify that there is currently fence posts and wiring kept within the Building that we have stored as it is our intention to use this to separate the Building from the remainder of our land at this holding following the granting of planning permission for converting the Building.

5. I am aware that the Site is registered online as being used by "Goodhew Brothers Fencing Ltd", which is listed at Companies House as a manufacturer of "other builders' carpentry and joinery". I confirm that it is my understanding that this is because the business is located at the applicant's home address adjacent to the farm yard.
6. I am aware that a planning application was recently submitted to the Council concerning the change of use of this Building from agricultural to residential use. I am aware that Paragraph 3.4 of the Planning Statement submitted as part of that application stated that *"This holding was originally used for agricultural operations, as it incorporated and still contains a cold store that was once used to house fruit that was harvested from the adjoining orchards that extend to the south west of the proposed building. These orchards have since been tenanted to a third party"*.
7. I am further aware that Paragraph 3.4 of the Planning Statement submitted as part of that application also stated that *"The rest of the building was previously used to store fencing supplies including posts, wire, as well as a land rover and trailer that were also used on the farm and for the applicants ancillary agricultural contracting business"*. I can verify that this statement was endorsed by myself and my brother Mr Nigel Goodhew, for whom that planning application was submitted. Our understanding of this part of the Statement was that it was inferring that the Land Rover and trailer had been used for fencing as well as our agricultural working on farms. With hindsight, I do not consider that this sentence accurately reflects the manner in which the Building has been used as the fencing items, wiring, Land Rover and trailer which have at times been stored in the Building are those that have been stored in conjunction with the renewal of fencing at this Site and other land which we have farmed. They have not been used in conjunction with any contractual fencing as our vehicle and equipment for this is stored elsewhere on the farm.

8. I can verify that I have been made aware of the definition of a 'agriculture' in planning terms by a Chartered Town Planner, including an explanation that Section 336 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 defines 'agriculture' as including 'horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming; the breeding and keeping of livestock (including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land); the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens or nursery grounds; and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes.' I can confirm that it is my informed opinion that all of the Building labelled on the site plan, which is exhibited as part of this Statutory Declaration, has been used as an agricultural building over the course of the previous 10 years.
  
9. I consider that the agricultural use of the Building has been continuous and uninterrupted for over 10 years, and the Building has not been used for any other purposes in this time.
  
10. All the facts above deposed to are within my personal knowledge.

**And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.**

**Signed:**

[Redacted Signature]

**Print Name:**

P. GOODHEW

**Before me:**

[Redacted Name]

EMMA LEE

Solicitor / Commissioner of Oaths

**Date:**

13/5/21

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