

STATEMENT OF AIRLIE FINN AND ALAN WESTERHOFF

My partner and I have resided at The Oaks, Ringwood Road, Fordingbridge since January 2001. Prior to living there, my partner and I lived in accommodation supplied to us by the owners of Arniss Riding Stables where I had worked at for many years, having 24 hour responsibility for the welfare of the animals stabled there. My partner Alan worked nearby at Sandyballs Holiday complex.

As the required hours meant that my health was suffering, I tendered my resignation, which involved having to find alternative accommodation. I am friendly with a lady from Verwood who runs a Beauty business and when I told her that I was seeking somewhere for Alan and I to move to, she advised me that one of her other customers had a converted stable building in a small paddock that had been rented out when they bought the property, but that the lady living there had to move out as the Huckles Brook had flooded in October 2000, and that the building had to be dried out and anti-flood walls built to stop any repetition of the flood problem.

We made an approach to Mr and Mrs Garvey who said that we could move into their house until the work was completed on the old stable, which we did in December 2000. When the building became fully habitable again, we asked to be able to move in, which we did on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

The agreement was that we would have use of the land within the paddock as well as two bays of an open fronted barn to use as parking and storage. Being a detached property, this gave Mr and Mrs Garvey their own privacy as well as us benefiting similarly. We then had no problem asking if we could bring our dogs with us and then later added a few chickens, with their approval.

We have lived there happily and continuously now for more than twenty years and have just signed a new four year tenancy agreement in January 2021.

  
Alan Westerhoff

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Airlie Finn