



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.1/U/17

In the Matter of the Green, Odell,
Bedford R.D., Bedfordshire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as the Green, Odell, Bedford Rural District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.V.G.7 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Bedfordshire County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

Following upon the public notice of this reference no person claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and no person claimed to have information as to its ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Bedford on 20 October 1972.

The hearing was attended by the Bedfordshire County Council who were represented by Mr. J. Kieran who is one of their staff and by the Odell Parish Council who were represented by Mr. S. T. Morris who is the Assistant Secretary of the Bedfordshire Association of Parish Councils.

The Parish Council had written a letter to the Clerk of the Commons Commissioners stating that the land had always been used up to some years back for a horse fair, and the lane running from it is named "Horsefair Lane", that it is still used by various bodies, viz. local W.I. etc., for various functions, that it is maintained in excellent order in order that it should still be a credit to Odell Village which has a population of only 200 and that the land was originally given by King John but over the years the award of this has been mislaid. However, Mr. Morris said that the Parish Council could give no evidence as to ownership and accordingly submitted that subsection (3) of section 8 of the Act was applicable.

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Bedfordshire County Council as registration authority, to register Odell Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 8(3) of the Act.

I am required by regulation 30(1) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 to explain that a person aggrieved by this decision as being erroneous in point of law may, within 6 weeks from the date on which notice of the decision is sent to him, require me to state a case for the decision of the High Court.

Dated this 30th day of October 1972

a. a. Baden Fuller.

Commons Commissioner