



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 203/U/153

In the Matter of Studmore Pond, Bledlow Ridge,
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of the land described above being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 122 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Bucks 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 Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question ("the Unit land") and no other 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 Aylesbury on 2 October 1980.

At the hearing the Parish Council was represented by its Clerk, Mr J A Gibson.

In the Bledlow Enclosure Award of 1812 there was an award (not to any specified persons or bodies) of several areas "for public watering places", : one of these areas appears to be the Unit land, which is a pond with some ground surrounding it. Evidence was given by Mr F J Cooke, Vice-Chairman and formerly Chairman of the Parish Council, and by Mr C W Rogers who has lived in the village for some 80 years. The pond has been used in the past for watering cattle and it has been cleaned out from time to time at the Council's expense. A survey of the Unit land and its boundaries was made in 1976 at a cost to the Council of £25. This showed that the curtilage of an adjoining property had encroached on to the site of the Unit land, and in 1979 the Council granted to the owners of that property a licence, for an annual payment, to enter upon the strip of land encroached upon.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Bucks County Council, as registration authority, to register the Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

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 21 October 1980

L. J. Morris Smith

Commons Commissioner