



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 203/U/63

In the Matter of Wingrave Green,
Wingrave with Rowsham, Aylesbury
Vale District, Buckinghamshire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land containing about 0.393 of an acre known as Wingrave Green, Wingrave with Rowsham, Aylesbury Vale District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No VG. 54 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Buckinghamshire 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 Aylesbury on 8 March 1978. At the hearing Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council were represented by Mrs M J Whitfield their vicechairman; present also was Mr J L Roberts who has since 1952 been one of their members.

Mrs Whitfield who has lived in the Parish since 1942, became a member of the Parish Council in 1950, was chairman from 1957 to 1966 and has since been vicechairman, in the course of her evidence produced the Parish Council Minute Books from 1894 to 1921, from 1922 to 1957, from 1957 to 1970, from 1970 to 1975 and from 1975 to date, and pointed out to me the various references in them to the Village Green. These references are numerous and show a continued interest by the Parish Council in the land and to their receiving payments from amusement fairs.

Mr Roberts said that he remembered his father collecting £1 from the roundabout people when he was a boy; these amusement fairs came during the Wingrave Feast on St Peter's Day (the first weekend in July); he thought the last time they came was in about 1962.

I conclude from the various entries in the Minute Books and Mrs Whitfield's explanation of them that the Parish Council have always treated themselves and been treated as the owners of the land, and that they are now in possession in circumstances in which it is practically certain that their possession will not be disturbed. Possession in such circumstances is equivalent to ownership, and I am therefore satisfied that the Parish Council are the owners of the land and I shall accordingly direct Buckinghamshire County Council as registration authority to register Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council as the owners 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 this 15th day of March — 1978

a. a. Boaden Fuller

Commons Commissioner