



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 9/U/8

In the Matter of the Village Green,
Little Torrington, Devon

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Village Green, Little Torrington, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. V.G.66 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Devon 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 the Little Torrington Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and Mrs. Betty W. Stevens-Guille, of Yatton Court, Beaford, 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 Barnstaple on 28th March 1972.

Mrs. Stevens-Guille stated in a letter that the land in question in this reference was a piece of manorial waste which had been given to the parish of Little Torrington for a village green about 1870-1880 by the joint owners of the Cross Estate, one of whom was the paternal grandmother of Mrs. Stevens-Guille's late husband. There seems, however, to be no evidence of this transaction, and the claim of the Parish Council is, in effect, based on long possession. The evidence as to this seems to me to be somewhat inconclusive, and I have come to the conclusion that the better course is to vest the land in the Parish Council under section 8(3) of the Act. I shall accordingly direct the Devon County Council, as registration authority, to register the Little Torrington Parish Council as the owner of the land.

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 24th day of April 1972


Chief Commons Commissioner