



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 20/U/131

In the Matter of land at Riley
Green, Hoghton, Chorley District,
Lancashire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land at Riley Green, Hoghton, Chorley District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No VG. 59 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Lancashire 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 Preston on 10 May 1978. At the hearing Hoghton Parish Council were represented by Mr E Blackley their chairman; present also was Mr A M Crook another member (also a member of the District Council).

Mr Blackley said:- The Parish Council would offer no evidence of ownership. He was content that I should proceed under subsection (3) of section 8 of the 1965 Act. The land was, or was reputed locally to have been, a pinfold.

Mr Crook produced a book (octavo) entitled "Hoghton Tower: History of the Manor" by Geo C Miller: Preston 1948. This included some extracts from the Manorial Records showing that in 1672 two Pinners were appointed and that in 1679 the Jury ordered the Pinners to put the pinfold into good repairs. The author comments (at page 30):- The pinners who were previously responsible for stray cattle were also responsible for the maintenance of the pinfold, "and what they lay forth to be put upon The town's charge". This is presumably the pinfold still in existence at Riley Green, which occasionally receives an unwelcome inmate in the form of a motor car failing to take the sharp turn out of the Belmont Road (A675) and crashing headlong through the retaining wall.

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 Lancashire County Council, as registration authority, to register Hoghton Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 8(3) 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 16th day of May —

1978

a. a. Bode Fille

Commons Commissioner