



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.25/U/19

In the Matter of Beeston Hall Common,
Beeston Regis, Norfolk

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Beeston Hall Common, Beeston Regis, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.85 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Norfolk 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 Beeston Regis Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question 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 Norwich on 5th July 1972.

At the hearing Mr. S.C. Abbs, the Chairman of the Beeston Regis Parish Council, appeared on behalf of the Parish Council. Until 1957 the affairs of the parish of Beeston Regis were administered by a Parish Meeting. It appears from the minutes of the Parish Meeting that the Parish Meeting was receiving rent from the tenant of the land in question from at least as early as 1927, and Mr. Abbs informed me that the rent has been received by the Parish Council since 1957. At first the money so received was distributed to parishioners of Beeston Regis either in lieu of rights of pasturage or as a charity (it is not clear which), but at a meeting held on 22nd April 1931 it was resolved that in future the money should not be distributed, but should be paid into the account of the Parish Meeting and would then be available for repairs to footpaths, etc., so that the parishioners in general would benefit from the payment.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Parish Council has a possessory title to this land, and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register the Beeston Regis 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 14th day of July 1972


Chief Commons Commissioner