



## COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 225/U/165

In the Matter of the Parish Piece or  
Playground, Bedingham, South Norfolk  
District, Norfolk

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as the Parish Piece or Playground, Bedingham, South Norfolk District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No VG110 in the Register of Town or Village Greens 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 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 Norwich on 6 December 1978.

The hearing was attended by Mrs R Hadman who is chairman of Bedingham Parish Meeting.

From the County Archives was produced the Bedingham Inclosure Award dated 17 July 1843 and made under the Bedingham Inclosure Act 1841 (4 & 5 Vict. c.10). By it there was allotted "unto the Churchwardens and Overseers for the time being of the said Parish of Bedingham one piece of land marked No 386 on the map or plan annexed containing two acres and one rood bounded ... as a place of exercise and recreation for the Inhabitants of the said Parish ..."

Mrs Hadman who has lived in the Parish since July 1964 and been chairman of the Parish Meeting since about 8 years ago said (in effect):- The Parish Meeting each year let the land for grazing between May and October (last year to the highest bidder for £50). She had seen the Churchwardens' records which go back to 1702, and they show that from 1844 the land has annually been let by the Churchwardens and since 1894 by the Parish Meeting; sometimes the record is brief, "the Parish Piece (or Playground) was let"; after about 1930 the records are more detailed; they appear every year except on occasions some person has had the land free if he reseeded and fertilised it. In the northwest corner there is a pond; in 1973 the Parish Meeting planted trees in the southwest corner. The land is on its west side enclosed against the road, but there is access through a gate and a style is used by children.

By comparing the Award map and the Register map I identify the land registered with that awarded as above stated. I conclude that by the Local Government Act 1894, it devolved (there being then no parish council) on the body corporate (being the chairman of the Parish Meeting and the Overseers of the Parish) established by section 19(6); see also section 6(c)(iii) and 67. Under the Overseers Order 1927, and the Local Government Act 1933 the property of this body corporate passed to the representative body in the Order and Act mentioned, and is now vested in the Parish Trustees, a body corporate established by section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972.



I am therefore satisfied that the Parish Trustees are the owners of the land and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register the Bedingham Parish Trustees 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 15<sup>th</sup> — day of February 1979

A. A. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner