



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.29/U/18

In the Matter of The Old Pound,  
Murcott, Oxfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Old Pound, Murcott, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.51 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Oxfordshire 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 one 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 Oxford on 22nd November 1973.

At the hearing Mr. R.H.E. Brown, a member of the Ploughley Rural District Council and formerly Honorary Clerk of the Fencott and Murcott Parish Meeting, appeared.

The land the subject of this reference is now almost derelict. It was at one time let to a Mr. Busby, who used it for keeping poultry and for growing fruit. Since Mr. Busby's death his widow, Mrs. T.G. Busby, has continued to pay the rent. This rent, formerly 2/6 and 13p. a year, has been paid to the Ploughley Rural District Council since as far back as 1st April 1945, and probably much longer, and is credited to the account of the Fencott and Murcott Parish Meeting.

In the absence of any direct evidence as to the ownership of this land, I draw the inference from the facts before me that it is held by the Rural District Council on trust for the Parish Meeting.

For these reasons I am satisfied that the Ploughley Rural District Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Oxfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the Rural District Council as the owner 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 21st day of December 1973

  
Chief Commons Commissioner