



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 34/U/34

In the Matter of Beccles Common  
Beccles, Waveney D

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DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Beccles Common, Beccles, Waveney D being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No CL.5 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former East Suffolk 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 Beccles 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 Ipswich on 20 January 1976.

Mr F W Leah, Clerk to the Beccles Parish Council but referred to locally as the Town Council appeared on behalf of that Council. Mr Leah produced a history of The Corporation of Beccles Fen which disclosed that by a charter of Elizabeth I dated 2 July 1854 the Portreeve, Surveyors and Commonalty of the Fen of Beccles were incorporated and the land in question was granted to them. On 15 November 1933 a scheme for the Regulation of Beccles Common under the Commons Act 1899 was approved by the Minister the land then being vested in Beccles Town Council as the successor of the granters under the said charter. On 14 January 1974 the Waveney District Council approved the transfer of the Common to Beccles Parish Council as the successor to the Town Council under the Local Government Act 1972.

Mr Peters an inhabitant submitted that the inhabitants were the owners but accepted that not only was this not the case but also that the title to the land could not be in the inhabitants.

Mr Rose also appeared and put forward grievances as to the administration. He was reluctant to accept that the hearing was not the forum to listen to or deal with his alleged grievances.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Beccles Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Suffolk County Council, as registration authority, to register Beccles Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 3(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 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1976

C A. Lettle

Commons Commissioner