



Reference No 234/U/90

In the Matter of Long Green,
Bedfield, Mid Suffolk District,
Suffolk

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Long Green, Bedfield, Mid Suffolk 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 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 Bedfield Parish Council claimed (letter of 5 June 1979) the right to ownership. No other 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 Ipswich on 3 October 1979. At the hearing Suffolk County Council as registration authority were represented by Mr J W Gibbs and Mr I Rands of the County Secretary's Department. Before the hearing the Parish Council because it might not be possible for them to be represented at the hearing, sent (letter dated 24 September 1979) an extract from an Inclosure Award and from the map referred to in it.

Mr Gibbs produced from the County Archives the Bedfield Long Green Inclosure Award dated 7 January 1853 and made under a provisional order dated 15 April 1846 approved by the Second Annual Inclosure Act 1849. This Award contained an allotment (in accordance with the said extract) as follows:- "I declare that I have set out and do hereby set out and award unto the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Bedfield All that piece of land numbered on the said Map 28 containing 2 acres to be held by them and their successors in trust as a place of Exercise and recreation for the Inhabitants of the said Parish and the Neighbourhood". The piece so numbered on the map referred to in the Award (also produced by Mr Gibbs) is the same as the land in this Register Unit. On this evidence, I am satisfied that the Parish Council as successors in title under the Local Government Act 1894 of the Churchwardens and Overseers are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Suffolk County Council as registration authority, to register Bedfield Parish 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 16th — day of October — 1979.

a. a. Baller Fuller