



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference Nos 234/U/96
234/U/97

In the Matter of the two parts of
The Green, Wattisham, Babergh District,
Suffolk

DECISION

These references relate to the question of the ownership of lands being the two parts of The Green, Wattisham, Babergh District being the lands comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit Nos VG 89 and VG 90 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 no person claimed to be the freehold owner of the lands in question and no person claimed to have information as to their ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Ipswich on 30 October 1979. At the hearing Wattisham Parish Council were represented by Mr E J Hart their chairman (present also was Mr B T Scroggins a member and the former clerk).

According to the Register map one of these lands contains 0.388 of an acre, is north of the road which runs east-west through the Village, and is a short distance from (nearly opposite) the Church; and the other is about one third of the size, and is a few yards to the west and also north of the road.

Mr Hart who has lived in the Parish for about 40 years and who has been a member of the Parish Council and their chairman for about 30 years said (in effect):- These lands are small pieces of ground which ever since he had been there had been used by the public without any objection. The well marked on the Register map has been filled in; while it was in use the Parish Council maintained it and the land around it. The grass on the Green has over the years been cut by members of the council from time to time. The pieces are a valuable Village amenity.

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the lands, and I shall accordingly direct the Suffolk County Council, as registration authority, to register Wattisham Parish Council as the owner of the lands under section 8(3) 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 22nd — day of October — 1979

a. a. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner