



In the Matter of Buckstone Common comprising
Staunton Meend, Little Meend and Hymens Meend
in the parish of Staunton in the County of
Gloucester

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Buckstone Common being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 298 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Gloucestershire 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, I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Gloucester on 9 December 1980.

The hearing was attended by Mr M Thomas, Solicitor, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Forestry Commission and Mr R W H White of Messrs Gwynn James and Co, Solicitors of Coleford representing Staunton (Coleford) Parish Council. With the agreement of all concerned I heard this reference together with Reference Nos. 213/U/114 and 213/U/115 as in each case title to the land depended on the same documents.

Mr Thomas informed me that the land was part of the Manors of Staunton and Bicknor which had been purchased by the Crown in 1823 from the then owner Viscount Gage pursuant to an Act of Parliament 57 Geo III c. 97 passed in July 1817. The land was now vested in the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and was managed on behalf of the Minister by the Forestry Commission.

I was further informed that the Minister had agreed to convey the land to the Parish Council and an undertaking was given to complete the transaction on or before 31 January 1981. I therefore agreed to hold up my decision to enable the transfer of ownership to take place so that the Parish Council could be put on the Register as owner.

Since the hearing I have received a copy of the Conveyance conveying the land to the Parish Council.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Staunton (Coleford) Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Gloucestershire County Council, as registration authority, to register the said 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

8th

day of

February

1982

George Hesketh