



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 19/U/9

In the Matter of The Village Green,
Otford, Kent.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Village Green, Otford, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.V.G.15 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Kent 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 the Otford 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 Canterbury on 14th November 1972.

At the hearing Mr. A. Lythaby, the Vice-Chairman, appeared for the Otford Parish Council. Mr. Lythaby produced a copyhold grant dated 11th November 1911, whereby the land in question in this reference, there described as part of the waste of the Manor of Otford, was granted to William Robert Hawkins, the then Clerk to the Parish Council. Mr. Lythaby also produced a deed of the same date made between (1) Edward Windsor Hussey and William Frank Evelyn Denison (2) Hugh, Earl Amherst, and (3) the Parish Council, whereby the copyhold land was enfranchised.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Kent County Council, as registration authority, to register the 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 6th day of December 1972

Chief Commons Commissioner