



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.29/U/55

In the Matter of The Village Green,  
Bletchington, Oxfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Village Green, Bletchington, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.V.G.23 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Oxfordshire 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 Bletchington Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and Mr. R.G. Bartram claimed to be the freehold owner of part of it. 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 Oxford on 22nd November 1973.

At the hearing Mr. Bartram appeared in person and the Bletchington Parish Council was represented by Mr. Arthur Eeley, one of its members.

The land in question consists of a triangular area bounded by roads and has on it a building which was formerly a blacksmith's shop, known appropriately as the Old Smithy.

Mr. Bartram produced a series of conveyances which satisfied me that he has a good title to the Old Smithy going back to 1958. However, Mr. Eeley, who has lived in Bletchington for most of his life gave evidence, which I accept, that the Bletchington Parish Council has administered the whole of the land, apart from the building, for many years. The Council has maintained it and has planted trees and, most important of all, has collected and is still collecting dues from showmen who attend the annual fair held on the Green.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Mr. Bartram is the owner of the Old Smithy and that the Parish Council is the owner of the remainder of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Oxfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register Mr. Bartram and the Parish Council as the owners of their respective parts 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 21st day of December 1973

  
Chief Commons Commissioner