



In the Matter of Village Gardens, High Street,  
Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Village Gardens, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG 78 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the West Sussex 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 land in question and no one 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 Lewes on 17 December 1976.

At the hearing the Hurstpierpoint Parish Council was represented by Mr C H Stacey, one of its members.

Mr Stacey informed me that the land in question was purchased by the Parish Council on 1 March 1956, but he was unable to produce the conveyance. He did, however, produce the counterpart of a conveyance made on 15 August 1957 whereby the Parish Council conveyed to the former East Sussex County Council a strip of land between the land in question and the High Street for the purpose of widening and improving the road. In this conveyance the Parish Council acknowledged the right of the County Council to the production of a conveyance dated 1 March 1956. It is therefore highly likely that the 1956 conveyance included the land the subject of this reference, but in the absence of proof of this, it seems to me to be safer to say that I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and to direct the West Sussex County Council, as registration authority, to register the Hurstpierpoint Parish Council as the owner of the land 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1977

  
Chief Commons Commissioner