



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 239/U/51

In the Matter of the Piece of land known as  
Sloping Bank on the East side of Alicks Hill in the  
Parish of Billingshurst, Horsham D

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### DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Sloping Bank on the East side of Alicks Hill, Billingshurst, Horsham D being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 18 in the Register of Common Land 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 Billingshurst 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 Chichester on 4 October 1979.

Mr Griffin appeared for the Billingshurst Parish Council and stated that he has been a member of the Council for 20 years. He said the land in question was open to the road and that about 15 years ago the council has cleared the land, cultivated it and seeded it and planted a large clump of daffodils and some shrubs and thereafter continued to employ Messrs Whiteheads, garden contractors to maintain and care for the garden established by the council. By these activities, the council has established its exclusive occupation of the land and dispossessed the true owner.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Billingshurst Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the West Sussex County Council, as registration authority, to register Billingshurst 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

2<sup>nd</sup>

day of November

1979

*G. A. Little*

Commons Commissioner