



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 20/U/121

In the Matter of Morris Dancers Ground, near Park Lane, Abram, Wigan Borough, Greater Manchester

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land containing about 0.016 hectares (0.039 of an acre) and known as Morris Dancers Ground, near Park Lane, Wigan Borough (formerly Abram Urban District) being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG.45 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Greater Manchester (formerly Lancashire) 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 Mr W.W. Wright, on whose application the registration was made, wrote saying that whilst agreeing that this small portion of ground has not been much danced on for many years, its loss would be a great blow to the people of Abram, and it should be preserved as the one and only piece of land set aside for this purpose in the North West. Mr W.G. Chadbrand, secretary of the Manchester District of the English Folk Dance & Song Society and Mr J.R. Mathews, bagman of Manchester Morris Men wrote about preventing any proposed or future development. No person claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question or 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 Salford on 11 December 1975. At the hearing Wigan Borough Council were represented by Mr A. Kitchen, solicitor (the principal assistant solicitor with the Council).

Under the 1965 Act, I have no jurisdiction over and am not concerned with any proposed development of this land such as seems to be feared by Mr Wright, Mr Chadbrand and Mr Mathews. I am only concerned to determine (if I can) who is the owner. Mr Kitchen said that the Council has no information about ownership. In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Greater Manchester County Council, as registration authority, to register Wigan Borough 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 18th day of December — 1975

a. a. *Baden Fuller*

Commons Commissioner