

Durham County Council

Licensing, Registration and General Purposes Committee

At a Meeting of the **Licensing, Registration and General Purposes Committee** held at the **County Hall, Durham** on **Thursday 13 November 2008** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Councillor C Carr in the Chair

Members of the Committee

Councillors B Alderson, E Bell, A Cox, K Davidson, D Farry, J Gray, D Hancock, S Hugill, J Hunter, P Jopling, J Lethbridge, R Liddle, E Mavin, E Murphy, M Plews, B Sloan, D Southwell, T Taylor, G Tennant, Allen Turner, C Walker and J Wilkinson

Other Members

Councillor R Arthur and P Stradling

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors G Bleasdale, L Marshall, P May, A Shield, Andy Turner and B Young

A1 Application to register an area of land known at Littleton, County Durham as Village Green

The Acting Director of Corporate Services presented a report in respect of an application to register an area of land known at Littleton, County Durham as Village Green (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Acting Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that an application had been received from Pitlington Parish Council to register the land known at Littleton as Village Green under the provision of Sections 15 (1), (2) and (8) of the Commons Act 2006.

Section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 enables landowners to apply to register land voluntarily as Village Green. Under these circumstances, the County Council as Commons Registration Authority, is not required to advertise the application and does not have to examine the merits of registering the land; however, the Authority must be satisfied that the

applicant is legally entitled to apply to register the land. The Land Registry confirmed that the land is in the ownership of Pitlington Parish Council.

An application to register the same area of land as a Village Green was received from Mrs Sheila Smith of 12 Plantation Avenue, Littletown under Section 15(2) of the Commons Act 2006. Mrs Smith was informed of Pitlington Parish Council's intention to purchase the land and to register the land as Village Green. A decision therefore was taken not to publicise the application by Mrs Smith and to await the formal application by Pitlington Parish Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Southwell, the Acting Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the applicant, Mrs Smith, had been informed of the Committee meeting and had received a copy of the Committee report. No objection had been received from Mrs Smith. In addition, Councillor Southwell commented on the length of time taken to process the application. The Acting Director of Corporate Services replied that the delay was due to the conveyance of the land to Pitlington Parish Council which had taken approximately nine months to complete.

It was resolved:

1. That the application from Mrs Sheila Smith to register land at Littletown as Village Green under the provisions of Sections 15 (1) and (2) be rejected as a result of the application being superceded by the voluntary registration of the land at Littletown as Village Green.
2. That Members note the land at Littletown, County Durham, be voluntarily registered as Village Green.