

Sent draft for
consultation thru
Selside

Chris Davies
John Davies
HML Fender
John Lambert
C. Thompson

**Application by Horton-in-Ribblesdale Parish Council
to register Selside Village Green as a village green**

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Replies to letter from Mr J. H Morphet objecting to registration

1. **General Remarks**

1.1 Horton-in-Ribblesdale Parish Council and Selside residents have never questioned the use of the Selside Village Green by Mr J. H. Morphet. It is our contention that the Green has been used regularly by all local residents and that this use by all should continue indefinitely.

1.2 Mr Morphet is not correct when he states that the area in question has never been a Village Green. There is good documentary evidence that it has always been considered to be the Village Green. As far back as the 1870s notes regarding Selside School clearly refer to "the Village Green" (copy enclosed).

1.3 There is no question that "the plan submitted to the Parish Council has been tampered with". The sketch map which accompanied the original application by the Parish Council shows the Village Green as it was at the time of the application and for most of the period before. It would have been misleading if the Council had submitted a earlier map.

1.4 Comments on Selside Green being "the hub of the farm":

Mr. Morphet used the Village Green for storing his farming equipment because it was convenient and handy, and nobody complained

1.5 It is not correct that the Village Green "became the garden and play-area for the inhabitants of Penyghent Cottage, but no-one else" after 1979. As Selside residents state below, the Village Green has been continuously used by them without hindrance by anyone. Contrary to Mr Morphet's claim, residents in Selside have never accepted the Village Green "as the curtilage of the cottage".

- 1.6 The photographs Mr Morphet enclosed with his objection are all earlier than the period to which the application refers. As mentioned above, nobody disputes Mr Morphet's right to use the Village Green. Local residents and Horton P. C. on their behalf simply want to safeguard their right to continue using the Green as they have done for generations.
- 1.7. Other general comments regarding Mr Morphet's objections:

2. **Specific comments by current and former Selside residents**

2.1 **Mr R. Cameron, Selside Cottages, Selside:**

The Village Green has, indeed, "never been fenced" completely. There is a vaguely U-shaped wall with large openings allowing villagers to cross freely when visiting other residents. Mr Cameron also contends that he puts his bike anywhere around the area and was never stopped doing so.

~~Any other comments from Mr Cameron?~~

2.2 **Mrs C. Davies, The Old Reading Room, Selside:**

Mrs Davies certainly used the Village Green in the company of Mr Morphet's tenants but also on many other occasions. The Green which is immediately opposite her house is a most useful meeting place for everyone in her family and has always been used as such. She also regularly walks over the Green when exercising their dog.

~~Any other comments from Mrs Davies?~~

2.3 Mr J. Davies, The Old Reading Room, Selside:

The obstructions on the Village Green were the subject to official complaints to Horton Parish Council and the Highways Department. Mr Morphet was asked to remove them but never complied. The local Council considered issuing an enforcement order but the matter was never seen through.

Further comments?

2.4 Mr F. D. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:

He and two other local students waited regularly for the school bus in this area. Sometime they stood in front of the "Shant", but on many other occasions they simply sat on the Village Green as this was safer and more comfortable. The Village Green was also used by them for snowball fights, games and general exercise.

2.5 Mrs H. M. L. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:

Mrs Fenten has regularly walked on the Green, collected firewood and met with neighbours - everytime without hindrance by anyone. Permission for such activities was never sought and never given.

Further comments?

2.6 Mr W. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:

When visiting Selside Farm, the Old School House and other neighbours Mr Fenten always walks across the Village Green. I am grateful to local residents for keeping the path across the Village Green open. In the past, obstacles such as old trailers were placed in the direct line of walking across the Village Green. Fortunately, they were soon removed or placed in such a way that one could continue to walk unhindered.

I am completely puzzled about Mr Morphet's claim that the "area allocated for parking" has been "reduced by 50%". To this day we have the some amount of

space around our house as we always had. The area around the Village Green is only ever used for parking when there is a village function in our house (when, for example, the Horton History Group - between 20 and 30 people - comes to our house for their Christmas meeting). On such occasions visitors have used the Village Green for parking but always with the consent of the people living around the Green. I have never sought any permission from Mr Morphet (who no longer lives in Selside) for any activity carried out on the Green. Nor have I ever been hindered by him or anybody else.

2.7 Mr R. and Mrs J. Harrison, Ecclefechan:

Mr and Mrs Harrison stand by their statement that their children played on the Village Green on many occasion. They, too, never sought anybody's permission nor are they aware that any such permission was ever given by anybody.

Further comments? *Mr & Mrs Harrison wish it to be known they meant the village green NOT the school yard as Mr Morphet has stated, where their children played.*

2.8 Ms Audrey Lambert, Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe:

Ms Lambert is quite clear that the area she refers to is the Village Green, not any lane or land adjacent to it.

~~Further comments?~~

2.9 Mr J. Lambert, Selside Farm, Selside:

The whole area in question has always been considered by Mr and Mrs Lambert as the Village Green. During the period in question (from the beginning of the seventies, during the eighties, until the present time) their children have continued to play on the Green. They, too, have never been hindered in any of their activities on the Green. They have also never sought anybody's permission for it nor was any permission ever given.

Further comments?

2.10 Mrs C. Thompson, 36 West Street, Gargrave:

Mrs Thompson confirms her statement that she has used the Green itself "as a communal meeting place and played various sports and games on it". Of course, she also used the area around as one could not possibly reach the Green without using the roads leading to it.

Further comments?

2.11 **Mrs A. Webster, The Old School House, Selside:**

Apart from meeting with Mr Morphet's tenants Mrs Webster clearly refers to meetings with others as well. All the other activities she mentions (playing badminton, sunbathing, etc.) were carried before and after Mr Morphet's tenants left. Their tenancy had and has no bearing on her use of the Green.

~~Further comments?~~

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2.12 **Mr P. C. Webster, The Old School House, Selside:**

Everyone in Selside remembers Mr Webster, sometimes in the company of his wife, exercising his ferret (in a special harness made for the purpose) on the Green.

Sadly the ferret died in 1994. However, Mr and Mrs Webster now own a dog and they now use the Green when they exercise the dog. Mr Webster also continues all the other activities he mentioned in his statement, without let or hindrance.

~~Further comments?~~

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2.13 **Mrs E. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside**

Why Mr Morphet should think that Mrs Wilcock did and does not refer to what is commonly called the Village Green is difficult to understand. She clearly meant the area referred to in the application.

Further comments?

Date 9-January 1996.

Yes I meant the village Green, but it seems to me Mr Morphet is trying his best to find little holes just to gain a very small unfarmable piece of land & to keep causing unrest.

2.14 Mr J. A. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside

Mr Wilcock wishes to re-state that he and many others have used the Village Green for various recreational purposes. He is, however, also concerned about its ownership. Whether or not this is irrelevant to the question of use is a different matter.

37 ~~Further comments?~~ years ago Mr Morphet's barn and calf pens which join the Village Green used to be cottages so I assume the residents would use the Green for recreation

2.15 Mr S. R. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside

Mr Wilcock would like to point out that there have been occasions when Mr Morphet asked local children to leave when he thought they were causing a nuisance. This, however, did not happen when he played on the Green. According to his recollection he has never asked permission for using the Green or thought it necessary that any such permission should be given.

9- Jan 96. Stephens New address:- 10 Glencoe Terrace, KIPPAX LEEDS.
~~Further comments?~~ Stephen wonders why all the fuss on Mr. Morphet's behalf over a useless plot of land. Thinks it's time the village got it back.

2.16 Mrs D. Jackson, Lincrest, Eldroth

Mrs Fenten asked Mrs Jackson to put on paper her recollection of the Village Green. Although Mrs Jackson's use of the Green pre-dates the period relevant for the application, Mrs Fenten thought that Mrs Jackson's letter provided a useful background on how local people regard Selside Village Green.

Clean draft of part
of WF's draft for
Horton PC

Replies from former and present Selside residents
to letter from Mr J. H Morphet
in which he objects to registration

1. **Mr R. Cameron, Selside Cottages, Selside:**

The Village Green has, indeed, "never been fenced" completely. There is a vaguely U-shaped wall with large openings allowing villagers to cross freely when visiting other residents. Mr Cameron also contends that he puts his bike anywhere around the area and was never stopped doing so.

2. **Mrs C. Davies, The Old Reading Room, Selside:**

Mrs Davies certainly used the Village Green in the company of Mr Morphet's tenants but also on many other occasions. The Green which is immediately opposite her house is a most useful meeting place for everyone in her family and has always been used as such. She also regularly walks over the Green when exercising their dog.

When her two sons were teenagers they used the Green for recreation, having little other space.

3. **Mr J. Davies, The Old Reading Room, Selside:**

The obstructions on the Village Green were the subject to official complaints to Horton Parish Council and the Highways Department. Mr Morphet was asked to remove them but never complied. The local Council considered issuing an enforcement order but the matter was never seen through.

4. **Mr F. D. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:**

He and two other local students waited regularly for the school bus in this area. Sometime they stood in front of the "Shant", but on many other occasions they simply sat on the Village Green as this was safer and more comfortable. The Village Green was also used by them for snowball fights, games and general exercise.

5. **Mrs H. M. L. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:**

Mrs Fenten has regularly walked on the Green, collected dry kindling twigs under the trees and met with neighbours (not just with Mr Morphet's tenants) - every time without hindrance by anyone. Permission for such activities was never sought and never given.

6. **Mr W. Fenten, The Shaws, Selside:**

When visiting Selside Farm, the Old School House and other neighbours Mr Fenten always walks across the Village Green. He is grateful to local residents for keeping the path across the Village Green open. In the past, obstacles such as old trailers were placed in the direct line of walking across the Village Green.

Fortunately, they were soon removed or placed in such a way that one could continue to walk unhindered.

He is completely puzzled about Mr Morphet's claim that the "area allocated for parking" has been "reduced by 50%". To this day The Shaws has the same amount of space around it for parking as it always had. The area around the Village Green is only ever used for parking when there is a village function in The Shaws (when, for example, the Horton History Group - between 20 and 30 people from the whole of the Parish - comes to The Shaws for its Christmas meeting). On such occasions visitors have used the Village Green for parking but always with the full consent of the people living around the Green. Mr Fenten has never sought any permission from Mr Morphet (who no longer lives in Selside) for any activity carried out on the Green. Nor has he ever been hindered by him or anybody else.

7. **Mr R. and Mrs J. Harrison, Ecclefechan:**

Mr and Mrs Harrison stand by their statement that their children played on the Village Green on many occasion. They, too, never sought anybody's permission nor are they aware that any such permission was ever given by anybody. They wish it to be known that they indeed meant the Village Green (as outlined on the map submitted), not the school yard as Mr Morphet has stated.

8. **Ms Audrey Lambert, Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe:**

Ms Lambert is quite clear that the area she refers to is the Village Green, not any lane or land adjacent to it.

9. **Mr J. Lambert and Mrs S. Lambert, Selside Farm, Selside:**

The whole area in question has always been considered by Mr and Mrs Lambert as the Village Green. In fact, three generations of the Lambert family of Selside farm played on the Green.

During the period in question (from the beginning of the seventies, during the eighties, until the present time) their children have continued to play on the Green. They, too, have never been hindered in any of their activities on the Green. They have also never sought anybody's permission for it nor was any permission ever given.

10. **Mrs C. Thompson, 36 West Street, Gargrave:**

Mrs Thompson confirms her statement that she has used the Green itself "as a communal meeting place and played various sports and games on it". Of course, she also used the area around as she could not possibly get to the Green without using the roads leading to it.

11. **Mrs A. Webster, The Old School House, Selside:**

Apart from meeting with Mr Morphet's tenants Mrs Webster clearly refers to meetings with others as well. All the other activities she mentions (playing badminton, sunbathing, etc.) were carried before and after Mr Morphet's tenants left. Their tenancy had and has no bearing on her use of the Green.

12. **Mr P. C. Webster, The Old School House, Selside:**

Everyone in Selside remembers Mr Webster, sometimes in the company of his wife, exercising his ferret (in a special harness made for the purpose) on the Green. Sadly the ferret died in 1994. However, Mr and Mrs Webster now own a dog and they use the Green when they exercise the dog. Mr Webster also continues all the other activities he mentioned in his statement, without let or hindrance.

13. **Mrs E. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside**

Mrs Wilcock does not understand why Mr Morphet queries her reference to what is commonly called the Village Green. When shown Mr Morphet's letter of objection she repeated that she indeed meant the Village Green as pointed out on the map.

14. **Mr J. A. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside**

Mr Wilcock wishes to re-state that he and many others have used the Village Green for various recreational purposes.

15. **Mr S. R. Wilcock, North Cote Farm, Selside**

Mr Wilcock would like to point out that there may have been occasions when Mr Morphet asked local children to leave when he thought they were causing a nuisance. This, however, did not happen when he played on the Green. According to his recollection he has never asked permission for using the Green or thought it necessary that any such permission should be given.

16. **Mrs D. Jackson, Lincrest, Eldroth**

Mrs Fenten asked Mrs Jackson to put on paper her recollection of the Village Green. Although Mrs Jackson's use of the Green pre-dates the period relevant for the application, Mrs Fenten thought that Mrs Jackson's letter provided a useful background on how local people regard Selside Village Green.