

Mr Richard T. Daly MA (Oxon)
Head of Legal Services
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

023

29th August 1996

Dear Mr Daly,

Selside Village Green

At a recent meeting of Horton-in-Ribblesdale Parish Council (19/8/96) a letter which you received from Mr J. H. Morphet regarding Selside Village Green was discussed. As Mr Morphet did not raise any new arguments the Parish Council decided to reply only to Mr J. H. Morphet's remarks questioning unfairly the role of the Clerk to the Parish Council in this matter.

However, I have been asked by Selside residents to reply a little bit more fully to his letters and to recent incidents mentioned by Mr Morphet.

1. All the current and former Selside residents who supplied the original depositions regarding the Village Green stand by their comments which are as true now as they were then.
2. We still feel that the case of R. v. Suffolk County Council has no bearing on the Parish Council request for registration. The rights we claim are based on our use of the Village Green since the early 70's.
3. In their letter of 16th May 1996 the Selside Resident Association underlined that Mr Morphet holds no legal title to the Green and only began to object to our use of the land after he had decided to put a house near the Green on the market. It is this change of attitude which has led to a lot of tension between Selside residents on the one hand and Mr Morphet on the other.

A good example of this tension were the recent events to which Mr Morphet alludes in one of the letters you sent to Horton Parish Council. Residents had planned a party on the Village Green in early June. A day before the event Mr Morphet placed an old tractor, a slurry wagon and a trailer on the Village Green blocking our way across it and making it difficult to hold a party which was to be followed by a barbecue the next day. Nevertheless, the party went ahead and was joined by a good number of people from Horton village, some 2 1/2 miles from Selside. During the party somebody (not a Selside resident) discovered a key which fitted Mr Morphet's tractor and drove it away, without any damage, back into Mr Morphet's. As far as we are aware, nobody let down any tires. Whilst we are very keen to keep the Village Green open to all we will not agree to any vandalism.

A few days later the Village Green was obstructed again. It was then when the skeleton of another old trailer was dragged away from the main crossing point of the Green and turned on its side. Since then the above mentioned items have been cleared from the Green by Mr Morphet and is now accessible again. Although we continue to use it we cannot say that we enjoy it as we are aware of the tension caused.

4. Finally, we want to repeat that we are only interested in keeping the Village Green in perpetuity open for all, without personal or financial gain to any of the residents.

We therefore ask the Subcommittee to support the Parish Council's registration in the interest of the whole Parish.

Yours sincerely,

W. Fenten