

## MINUTES – MEETING THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 AT 11:00 AM.

**Present:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mrs Philippa Foster-Back | Chair                                   |
| Dr Adrian Fox            | British Antarctic Survey (Secretary)    |
| Dr Mark Brandon          | <i>Ad hoc</i> Member (Open University)  |
| Mr Robert Burton         | Observer for GSGSSI                     |
| Mrs Catherine Cheetham   | Permanent Committee on Geographic Names |
| Mr Stuart Doubleday      | Polar Regions Department, FCO           |
| Prof. Julian Dowdeswell  | Scott Polar Research Institute          |
| Dame Prof. Jane Francis  | British Antarctic Survey                |
| Mr Robert Headland       | Royal Geographical Society              |
| Mrs Rachel Morgan        | <i>Ad hoc</i> Member                    |
| Ms Camilla Nichol        | UK Antarctic Heritage Trust             |
| Ms Jane Rumble           | Polar Regions Department, FCO           |
| Mr Paul Woodman          | Expert Member                           |
| Mr Andy Willett          | UK Hydrographic Office                  |

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence and comments in advance were received from Dr Mike Thomson (Expert member) and Dr Suman Chowdhury (*Ad hoc* member).

**2. Membership of the Committee**

The Chair welcomed Dr Mark Brandon as a new *ad hoc* member (following the withdrawal of Prof. Mike Bentley) and Mr Robert Burton as an observer for the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The Chair reported on a letter received by the Secretary from Mr Pat Geelan stating that he wished to step down from the Committee. In the letter Mr Geelan thanked the Committee for the recognition of his 60 years service on the APC at the June meeting and said he now thought that this was a suitable moment for him to step down. The Committee again noted the remarkable contribution to the work of the APC by Mr Geelan over six decades.

The Committee decided that the Committee still contained enough specialist expertise on toponymy through Mrs Catherine Cheetham (PCGN) and Mr Paul Woodman and that it was not immediately necessary to recruit a replacement for Mr Geelan.

**3. Place-names decisions [APC(17)11] and matters arising from APC(17) 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

The Secretary had prepared and circulated a list of place-names decisions from the June APC meeting, for the record.

Ms Rumble reported on discussions with GSGSSI about names on South Georgia, welcoming Mr Burton as an observer for GSGSSI. The GSGSSI is a relatively young body compared with British Antarctic Territory and does not as yet have any place names legislation. They are currently working on a place-names policy, but are concerned by the number of names

recently submitted to and recommended by the APC and do not want to formalise the names before their policy is in place. The FCO have stated that GSGSSI do need to have a Place-names Committee, even it is not the UK APC as presently configured.

**4. Minutes for APC(17)1<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 14 June 2017**

The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

**5. Secretary's report [APC(17)01]**

The Committee noted the Secretary's report.

**6. Report on SCAGI Working Group on Place Names meeting at UNGEGN.**

Mrs Cheetham reported on an initial meeting of the SCAR SCAGI WG on Antarctic Place Names on 16-17 August, held peripherally to the UNGEGN meeting in New York which she had attended for PCGN. The meeting had been attended by representatives from Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and USA, mainly from their National Naming Authorities, who were already at UNGEGN. It had been chaired by Major-General Jean-Yves Pirlot, Deputy Director of the Belgian National Geographical Institute.

All in all the group felt the meeting had been worthwhile and rewarding, and had a desire to gather again in a few months' time (probably virtually, with an Europe and America session and a separate Europe and Australasia session given the difficulties of time difference).

*Secretary's Note: The Secretary has since received detailed minutes from this meeting.*

**Action points**

- **Secretary to prepare a document setting out APC policies, based on the APC document revised in November 2016 and to circulate this before the SCAR SCAGI meeting in Davos, June 2018.**
- **Secretary to prepare statistics on the proliferation of names in the Antarctic Peninsula region over time.**

**7. Matters arising from APC(17)2<sup>nd</sup> postal round and closure of outstanding Place-name Proposal APC(17)13 (South Georgia)**

APC(17)13 (South Georgia): The Committee agreed that the feature did need a name to support boating operations from King Edward Point research Station, but recommended the name Boatman Cove instead of the proposed name Nyvaïen Cove.

APC (17)14 (South Georgia): The Committee had recommended the name Aiken Cove.

APC (17)15: The Committee had recommended the name Memorial Point.

*Secretary's note: The Secretary had written to Mr Rod Rhys-Jones (British Antarctic Memorial Trust) following approval of the name and inclusion in the gazetteer and received a return letter from Mr Rhys-Jones welcoming the name and stating that he would report this development at a BAMT meeting in the autumn.*

**8. US ACAN Comments for APC(17) 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting.**

The Secretary had not received any comments on the name proposals for the meeting from ACAN.

**9. Amendments to coordinates for mountain features on South Georgia APC(17)17**

The Secretary explained that recent mapping work on South Georgia using high resolution satellite imagery with accurate geospatial referencing had highlighted that the gazetteer coordinates for mountains in many cases do not now plot onto the actual summit. Also, significant glacier change has resulted in the gazetteer coordinates no longer plotting in a central position on the glacier – or in a few cases on the glacier at all. Similar factors are at work in BAT as well, both from improving geospatial data and real change in the terrain. After discussion the Committee approved the principle that the BAS MAGIC group could amend the coordinates in the gazetteer without full consultation with the APC where the changes were minor and simply a matter of detail. However, any more complex decisions should be brought to the APC by the Secretary.

**10. New Place-name Proposals – South Georgia [APC(17)18]**

The Committee recommended the name No Name Bay for the feature on Barff Peninsula and the name Martin Peak for the mountain to the west of Gulbrandsen Valley. The other name proposals were deferred pending more clarity on place-names policy from GSGSSI.

**Action points**

- **Secretary to write to Mr James Jansen (GSGSSI) informing him of the recommendations and submitting them for consideration by the Commissioner for South Georgia.**

**11. New Place-name Proposals – South Orkney Islands [APC(17)19]**

All the proposed names were recommended by the Committee and accepted by the Deputy Commissioner.

**Action points**

- **Secretary to add the approved names to the BAT Gazetteer.**

**12. New Place-name Proposal – Nordenskjöld Coast [APC(17)20]**

The Committee recommended the name Mount Daynes for the prominent peak but did not agree that the headland feature needed a name.

**Action points**

- **Secretary to add the approved name Mount Daynes to the BAT Gazetteer.**
- **Secretary to write to Mr Daynes and Mr James Wake to notify them of the outcome for the proposals.**

**13. Amendment to place name descriptions and new Place-name Proposals – Jason Peninsula [APC(17)21]**

The Committee decided that an asterisk should be added to the name Summerhayes Inlet to denote a feature that is no longer extant (in this case due to improvements in the geospatial data for the area).

The Committee accepted the names Hanza Inlet and Skvarca Headland – these names are already in the CGA from USA.

The Committee did not recommend the name Da Silva Inlet (in the CGA from Argentina) in the absence of further details about the justification for the name and date of approval by Argentina.

#### **Action points**

- **Secretary to add asterisk and an explanation to the name Summerhayes Inlet in the BAT gazetteer.**
- **Secretary to add Hanza Inlet and Skvarca Headland to the BAT Gazetteer.**

#### **14. Amendments to place-name descriptions – Larsen Ice Shelf [APC(17)21]**

The Committee accepted the proposed updates to the place-name descriptions and coordinates. It was noted that future subdivision of Larsen D Ice Shelf may be needed in response to future changes in the ice shelf.

#### **Action points**

- **Secretary to amend the descriptions in the BAT Gazetteer.**

#### **15. Any Other Business**

Dr Fox informed the Committee that BAS was planning to publish an updated map of the South Shetland Islands and that this could be linked to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first sighting of Antarctica and events marking 200 years of UK activity in Antarctica. The Committee noted that this anniversary will be of significance for the APC. The intention is to review the existing place names on the South Shetland Islands so that any new names that are required can be considered by the Committee before publication of the map.

Mr Headland reported that there had been a conference at SPRI on sealing activity on the South Shetland Islands (which followed soon after the discovery of the islands). The proceedings of the conference would be a very useful resource for potential names linked to the history of sealing at the South Shetland Islands.

#### **16. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 10 May 2018 following a Doodle poll after the meeting.