

**MINUTES – MEETING Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 AT 14:15. Meeting held virtually.****Present:**

Mrs Philippa Foster-Back	Chair
Dr Adrian Fox	British Antarctic Survey (Secretary)
Prof. Mark Brandon	Ad hoc member
Dr Alistair Crame	British Antarctic Survey
Prof. Dame Jane Francis	British Antarctic Survey
Dr Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley	British Antarctic Survey (observer)
Mr Robert Headland	Royal Geographical Society
Prof Julian Dowdeswell	Scott Polar Research Institute
Mrs Rachel Morgan	Ad hoc Member
Ms Camilla Nichol	UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
Ms Jane Rumble	Polar Regions Department, FCO
Mr Lee Truscott	UK Hydrographic Office
Mr George Clarkson	Polar Regions Department
Dr Bethan Davies	Ad hoc member
Dr Kate Winter	Ad hoc member
Dr Rod Downie	Ad hoc member
Ms Elena Field	British Antarctic Survey (minutes)

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Woodman, Rebecca Kaye, Catherine Cheetham.

**2. APC membership news.**

This meeting was Prof. Dowdeswell's last – he is stepping down as Director of SPRI. Dr Neil Arnold is interim Director and will represent SPRI at the next APC meeting.

**3. Place-names decisions and matters arising from APC(20) 3rd meeting**

Actions are all complete and up to date.

**4. APC(20)34: Minutes of the last meeting [APC(20)3rd], held on 21 October 2020**

Agreed as correct.

**5. Secretary's report [APC(21)01]**

All approved place names from the 2020 3rd meeting in October are up to date in the UK Gazetteer and are included in the SCAR Composite Gazetteer. The Secretary is also in liaison with ACAN and has provided the ACAN Secretary with a summary listing of all names approved in 2020.

The December 2020 announcement about the 28 'Antarctica 200' names was very well received by the recipients and the Secretary received many sincere messages of thanks from the recipients and their families, and appreciation for the effort put into linking the people with appropriate features.

The announcement also generated media attention, including a BBC Science online feature and an article in the Daily Mail, and was extensively reported on the websites and social media of the

recipients' institutions. The International Association of Cryospheric Sciences have featured Morris Glacier in their newsletter and Twitter account.

The APC Twitter site received about 36,500 impressions (engagements).

Recent 'Place-name of the Month' articles for the BAS Ice Sheet newsletter and APC website are: October 2021: Blaiklock Island and Blaiklock Glacier, named for Kenneth Blaiklock, pioneering surveyor who died in September 2020. December 2020 – 'Antarctica 200' names, and March 2021, Antarctic names of Irish origin, contributed by Robert Headland, to tie in with St. Patrick's Day on 17 March. The Secretary thanked Mr Headland for this contribution.

The Secretary has been asked by the BAS Club to write a piece about the APC for the BAS Club newsletter, focussing on how ex-FIDS and BAS staff can use the APC website to check for names for themselves and their colleagues from their time south.

Dr Kate Winter and the Secretary prepared an article about Antarctic place names for online magazine *The Conversation*. However, after discussions with the Editor we have decided to halt this until there is a suitable newsworthy event to link the article to.

Remarks on Antarctica 200 names media attention (Phillippa Foster-Back and Jane Rumble):

- The media attention exceeded that anticipated, and also focused too much on the individuals. In future the focus should be on the places themselves and the 'how and why' we name places, not the specific persons that receive a place name.
- To that end, we want to avoid situations like the Antarctica 200 names in future. Whilst names or groups of names will be considered on a case-by-case basis, we would not have a press-release style announcement again.
- Some comments were received that the names were Imperialistic or showed gender bias. The Secretary responded to these in consultation with Jane Rumble and the Chair. It would be a good idea to have an accessible piece on the website that emphasizes why place names and the APC are important for science and operations, and international liaison and cooperation, eg through SCAR –SCAGI.

Protest notes about the Antarctica 200 names were received from Argentina and Chile. The Head of Polar Regions Department has responded appropriately.

**ACTION:** Secretary to write an accessible piece for the website emphasizing the science and operational drivers for the names and international collaboration, with Kate Winter and Elena Field.

**ACTION:** Kate Winter to draft a social media policy, then circulate to Secretary, Chair, JR and EF.

## 6. Update on South Georgia place names (Mark Belchier)

*Viola Peak*. The suggested name *Viola Peak* for the peak near Godthul and Ocean Harbour was not approved by the Commissioner because *Viola* was never used as a whale-catcher, and so does not fit with other peak names for whale catchers nearby, and had no direct association with the area.

Mr Robert Headland had subsequently suggested the un-named peak with altitude 1268 m, to the south of Novosilski glacier and overlooking Diaz Cove as an alternative feature. Both the Commissioner and the *Viola Trust* are happy with this feature and name.

Following further research, Mr Headland suggested the names *Suderø* or *Norrøna* for the original proposed feature, both of which were whale catchers associated with the Godthul and Ocean Harbour area. It is accepted that the mountain does need a name for navigational purposes, the choice of name is currently with GSGSSI.

## 7. Update on SCAR SCAGI International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names\*

The Secretary had previously circulated the latest draft of the SCAR SCAGI document. It was noted that Catherine Cheetham had been involved with the process from an UNGEGN perspective (UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names).

Ursula Harris from AAD has now taken over as Chair of the SCAGI WG from Jean-Yves Pirlot and will lead on taking this to the delegates.

**ACTION:** Secretary to chase this with the SCAGI leadership and determine status, and will update in minutes.

Comments:

- It would be good to confirm that this is the final version.

*Secretary* – now confirmed by Ursula Harris, Chair of WG that the document as circulated is the final SCAGI version and is closed for further comments from SCAGI.

- JF noted that the SCAR Delegates meeting had already taken place on the morning of 25 March and whilst mentioned in the SCAGI report, was not presented to the Delegates.

*Secretary* – Chair of WG has confirmed that ‘she is looking into some kind of ratification at the SCAR level’.

*Summary of comments from members:* This is a good and useful paper and even better that it is an international document. The UK APC practices are consistent with the principles and procedures. A key issue had been the aspiration for ‘one feature one name’ but with the risk that application of an inappropriate name could lock the CGA for a further more apt name later.

*Secretary* - This has been a long-running process. The emphasis is that these are guidelines for a non-governmental body (SCAR). They denote best practices, but there will always be things that do not conform to this. This is a good step forward as it is a joined-up acknowledgement of best practice.

## 8. US ACAN Comments for APC(21) 1st Meeting

ACAN Secretary confirmed that responses received from ACAN members were happy with the proposed names.

## 9. New Place-name Proposals – Rothera Point, Adelaide Island [APC(21)02]

The names East Beach and Hangar Cove (Rothera Point) were approved.

**ACTION:** Secretary to contact proposer, and EF to add to BAT Gazetteer, Secretary to forward to the SCAR CGA.

## 10. New Place-name Proposal – Rothschild Island [APC(21)03]

Members were highly supportive of the proposal. There was some discussion about the spatial extent of the feature and the relationship with Fournier Ridge and Desko Mountains. The name Hole Peninsula was accepted, provisional on further discussion with the proposer.

**ACTION:** Secretary to confirm the extent of the peninsula with the proposer.

**ACTIONS:** Following the above Action, Secretary to write to the recipient, Dr Malcolm Hole, EF to add to the BAT Gazetteer. Secretary to forward to the SCAR CGA.

### **11. New Place-name Proposals – Getz Ice Shelf [APC(21)04]**

A proposal had been received to name several glaciers feeding the Getz Ice Shelf after cities/locations that had hosted significant international meetings that had resulted in resolutions and agreements on Climate Change.

The Committee generally liked the concept and theme, but the specifics of the proposal generated significant discussion on: a) The choice of meetings/cities, and that these should be restricted to events where there had been a notable milestone; b) Terminology for the features above the grounding line and as components of the Getz Ice Shelf; c) Definition of the spatial extent of the features. This included a wider discussion on how the APC should deal with features that are defined by velocity, such as ice streams rather than by topography, and whether guidelines are needed.

**ACTION:** BD and JD to discuss with the proposer to define the extent of features going across the Getz Ice Shelf grounding line, and liaise on a revised proposal. The outcome might be a reduced requirement for names.

**ACTION:** Secretary to circulate a revised paper when received from the proposer.

### **12. Any Other Business: including additional papers.**

Several additional papers were presented at the meeting by the Secretary. It was acknowledged by the Secretary that these were exceptions that did not follow the normal procedure of pre-circulation of the papers before the meeting and that this should be avoided.

APC(21)05 – Danco Coast

The name Rumble Point had previously been approved by the Commissioner.

APC(21)06 – Loubet Coast

The name Dowdeswell Bay was Accepted at the meeting. The Chair again thanked Prof. Dowdeswell for his service on the Committee.

APC(21)07 – Elephant Island

A proposal from Mr Headland to clarify naming of a cove on Elephant Island.

The cove contains wreckage of sailing vessel and is currently un-named in the gazetteer. The name 'Hampson Cove' has recently been seen applied to the feature but Mr Headland has checked sources and could not find any record of an SS Hampson, and there is no evidence of the wreckage being that of a steam ship. An appropriate gazetted name is now needed to remove any confusion.

The name Wreck Cove was approved.

**ACTIONS:** Secretary to send formal letters to the recipients and EF to add the names to the BAT gazetteer. The citations to emphasise the recipients outstanding contributions to polar science and wider polar affairs. Secretary to forward to the SCAR CGA.

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

Date TBC (October 2021). Hopefully the meeting will be hosted at BAS rather than virtually.