

MINUTES OF MEETING AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2006 AT 11.15 AM.

Present:

Mr P.J. Woodman	Chairman
Mrs C. Burgess	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Dr J.R. Shears	British Antarctic Survey
Mr A.J. Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Mr P. Geelan	<i>Ad hoc</i> member; former Chairman, APC
Dr G Hattersley-Smith	Royal Geographical Society
Lt Cdr J.E.J. Marshall	Hydrographic Office
Ms J. Rumble	Polar Regions Unit, Overseas Territories Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Dr M.R.A. Thomson	<i>Ad hoc</i> member
Ms J. Harris	Polar Regions Unit, Overseas Territories Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Ms A. Martin	APC Secretary

1. Visit to the Mapping and Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) at BAS 10.30 am.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fox for the visit to MAGIC which had preceded the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence and New Members

Apologies for absence were received from Prof. J.A. Dowdeswell, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge .

The Chairman welcomed Dr Shears who had taken over from Prof. Walton as representative of the British Antarctic Survey. He also welcomed Ms Harris, Polar Regions Desk Officer who had been invited by Ms Rumble.

After lunch the Chairman welcomed Mr A.J. Fox representing British Antarctic Survey in the absence of Dr Shears who was unable to attend in the afternoon.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 9th November 2005

The minutes as circulated were approved by all present.

The Chairman noted how he had written to Dr Heap after the last meeting, thanking him for his valuable service over the years. He informed the committee that he had since attended Dr Heap's funeral. The committee unanimously expressed their sense of loss for Dr Heap, who had been a great leader in Antarctic Affairs in the Foreign Office.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

Secretary's Report of development work being carried out on the BAT gazetteer and APC website.

The Secretary gave a verbal report. All of the dates of acceptance had been added to the BAT gazetteer. All of the descriptions had been added except those which had not transferred digitally from the original format of Hattersley-Smith's tomes into a database. The reason for this was unknown as it had happened many years previously. The Secretary informed the committee that approximately

100 descriptions were thought to be involved and that she would add them only if requested to by an enquirer. Owing to the time that it would take to type in the large volume of material she felt that this would not be an efficient use of her time.

The Secretary demonstrated the website showing the webmap interface. She informed the committee that work on the webmap interface had been on hold due to staff illness. The webmap interface exists but several members had commented on how slow it was to load. An explanatory note would be added to this effect with the additional suggestion that using the Refresh button could speed it up. Further aesthetic changes would be made to the site and amendments to the text on the Place-names search page.

4. Secretary's Report [APC(06)05]

The committee noted the report.

5. Place-name Decisions [APC(06)06]

All place-names were ratified.

6&7. Draft Proposal, Advertisement/Nomination for new Ad Hoc members

It was agreed that there was a need to have a more open form of appointment of ad hoc members and to welcome 'new blood' onto the committee but that there was a very real need to maintain the high levels of expertise on the committee. After discussion it was agreed that there would be a change to the constitution. It would now allow for up to three *non ex officio experts* who would have an open-ended appointment. In addition there would be provision for 1 to 2 *ad hoc* members who would be recruited by advertisement on a tenure of 3 years followed by a possible further tenure of 5 years.

8. Postal Assessments and ACAN response

i) *ACAN Response*

These were noted.

ii) *Place-name need Port Lockroy [APC(06)01 rev]*

After discussion the names **Boogie Island** and **Woogie Island** proposed in the original paper were approved.

9. Proposed Adoption of Foreign Names and New Name Proposal Alexander Island and English Coast [APC(05)10rev]

The Chairman informed the committee that he had written to ACAN asking them for further imagery of the Beethoven Peninsula area, but no superior imagery had been offered. The new image of the proposed *Nueve de Julio Glacier* was considered. It was agreed that the name appeared to indicate a part of the *Bertrand Ice Piedmont*, and was not a separate feature. It was also thought that the name and its spelling could lead to confusion and to transcriptions such as 9th July Glacier and Ninth July Glacier. Hence the name *Nueve de Julio Glacier* was rejected. *Uspallata Glacier* was approved. None of the other names was approved as there was insufficient evidence to show that they were separate and/or distinct features. For example *Rachmaninoff Glacier* appeared to be synonymous with *Britten Inlet* and *Dargomyzhsky*

Glacier appeared to be synonymous with *Williams Inlet*. Similarly it was felt that further evidence was required to distinguish between the proposed *Hall Glacier* and *Nikitin Glacier* and to establish whether they were two distinct features.

10. **New Place-names Proposal – South Georgia [APC(06)07]**

It was noted that the Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands had shown his approval of the names with the suggestion of *Orca Peak* instead of *Killer Peak*. It was agreed that the theme of names of all the cetaceans was a very suitable theme, however, it was thought that it was unsuitable for this part of South Georgia, so far from the sea. It was noted that *Wilckens Peaks* had been named after a geologist and that names associated with geology or fossils from the original Kohl-Larsen collection would have been more appropriate in this instance. It was questioned whether some of the features (*Minke Peak*, *Humpback Peak* and *Bottlenosed Peak*) were distinct features in their own right and therefore merited a name. Given all of these reasons and the question whether there was a need for the names it was decided not to recommend any of the names.
11. **Proposed Place-name Amendment - Gerlache Strait [APC(06)08]**

It was decided that altering a name which had been approved nearly 50 years ago could lead to confusion and went against current policy. It was decided that no amendment would be made but that the new information would be added to the description.
12. **Coordinate Amendment – South Shetland Islands [APC(06)09]**

This was ratified.
13. **Proposed Amendment to Place-name – Palmer Archipelago [APC(06)10]**

It was agreed that there would be no change in the current policy and therefore the name would remain as it is – *Lefèvre Point*.
14. **New Place-name Proposal – Pensacola Mountains [APC(06)11]**

The Secretary was asked to clarify the position of the proposed peak as there was a discrepancy between the proposed peak indicated on the map and the coordinates given.
15. **Secretary's Note – Place-names and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat**

The creation of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat was noted, as was Italy's current excellent maintenance the SCAR-CGA. There was no need for the committee to take any action.
16. **Any Other Business**
 - i) Suggestions of possible names were put forward for the already existing themes of *Eye Specialists – Sir Harold Ridley* who pioneered the treatment for cataracts, and *Continental Drift Specialists - Lord Blackett (Patrick Maynard Stuart Blackett)*.
 - ii) Port Lockroy – There was no need nor had there been any intention to name the features marked on Taylor's 1948 map as Shag's Nest Shallows or Ships Passage.

- iii) It was noted that a database of names for the South Shetland Islands was already maintained by Germany.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 15th November 2006.

The meeting closed at 3pm.