

**MINUTES OF MEETING AT THE SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HELD ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2012 AT 11.00 AM.**

**Present**

Mrs Philippa Foster Back	Chair
Ms Kate Bazeley	Secretary
Dr Adrian Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Prof. Mike Bentley	Durham University
Mr John Killingbeck	Royal Geographical Society
Prof. Julian Dowdeswell	Scott Polar Research Institute
Mr Henry Burgess	Polar Regions Unit, FCO / Government British Antarctic Territory
Dr John Shears	British Antarctic Survey
Lt Cdr Jonathan Marshall	UK Hydrographic Office
Mrs Caroline Burgess	Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Dr Kim Crosbie	<i>Ad hoc member</i>
Mr Pat Geelan	<i>Expert Member</i>
Mr Paul Woodman	<i>Expert Member</i>
Mr David Herbert	Mapping and Geographic Information Centre, British Antarctic Survey

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Suman Chowdhury (Shell Oil), Dr Mike Thomson (*Expert Member*).

**2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6 October 2012**

The minutes were agreed with no amendments.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

**i) Google Project**

The Committee noted the Google Final Report and thanked the Secretary and the Mapping and Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) at the British Antarctic Survey for their work on the project.

**ii) Centenary Naming**

Due to the Google project work, little progress has been made on the Centenary Naming proposal. Land Information New Zealand should have some new maps of the Ross Sea Dependency being published in March, which will help with locating three appropriate unnamed features. The Secretary will put a proposal together and, once approved by the UK-APC, will send it to the NZ-Antarctic Names Committee, who will consider the proposal via email vote.

**iii/iv) Licence Agreement and APC website**

David Herbert from the MAGIC team at BAS gave a presentation on possible improvements that could be made to the APC website, and how our place-names data could be shared amongst a wider audience. He highlighted that the current APC website uses technology that is now 10 years old and therefore the website looks quite dated and is not very user-friendly. He suggested that to improve the website, it could be revised to conform with Open Geospatial Consortium Standards. The site could implement a Web Feature Service with a map browser on the home page, as used on the South Georgia GIS website. This would allow the linking of searching and navigation of place-names for outside users, and straightforward management for administrative purposes. The 'members only' section of the website could also be implemented alongside these changes, to be accessed by Committee members via a unique login. This area will include the APC Handbook information and will be where the meeting papers can be downloaded from for each Committee meeting.

Due to the Google project, BAT place-names will now be available outside of the APC website and are therefore much more in the public domain. To encourage people to use our website as the definitive source of the place-names data, it was suggested that the APC should be proactive in disseminating our data to other web sources. It was suggested that our data should therefore be uploaded to GeoNames website, which is a collaboratively-sourced database of global place-names. However in doing so, the need for a Licence Agreement on the APC website would be redundant, as the data would be freely accessible elsewhere.

It was decided that a paper should be drawn up for the next meeting including all the facts and the possible implications of any decisions. This paper will be discussed at the next meeting and an agreement will be made then.

**4. Secretary's report**

The Secretary's report was noted.

**5. Place-names decisions**

It was confirmed that all of the place-names recommended at the October 2011 APC meeting had been approved.

**6. ACAN response**

This was considered in assessing the new name proposals.

**7. New Place-name proposals – James Ross Island APC(12)03**

All three names were unanimously approved.

**8. New Place-name proposals – Aitcho Islands APC(12)04**

Mr Burgess raised an APC policy issue regarding place-naming after living people. While the APC allows features to be named after living people, he suggested that perhaps the work that the person is being commemorated for should have been completed before the place-name is applied. The Committee usually reviews proposals on a case-by-case basis, evaluating the person's individual contribution, however perhaps a firmer policy should be put in place. ACAN are also currently reviewing their policies on naming after living people, so their decision should be noted. The Committee noted that a United Nations Resolution on commemorative naming practices recommended that naming authorities discourage the use of personal names to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question.

This proposal was therefore put on hold until the APC policy has been reviewed.

**9. New Place-name proposals –Nordenskjöld Coast APC(12)05**

It was decided that the proposed members of the Nordenskjöld Expedition are all of a similar ranking, so it would be difficult to choose just one to commemorate with a place-name. Furthermore, the person needs to have made a significant contribution to Antarctic science or logistics as it is a large feature. It was therefore agreed that Professor Helmut Rott should be commemorated with place-name in this area, due to his significant contribution to the science of the break up of the Larsen Ice Shelf.

It was noted that the sledger on the Nordenskjöld Expedition, Ole Jonassen, should also be commemorated with a place-name for a small feature in this area, due to his contribution to Antarctic sledging. However, following research after the meeting, the Secretary noted that Jonassen was already honoured with the place-name *Jonassen Island*.

#### 10. New Place-name proposals – Bird Island APC(12)06

The names in this proposal have been in common usage by the residents of Bird Island for decades, so the intention is to make them official place-names.

Cave Crag	Approved
Cloud Pond	Approved
Cobblers Mound	Approved
Crucifix Bay	Approved
Flagstone Pond	Approved. Origin of name to be added to description, if known.
Giant Petrel Pond	Not approved. The Committee proposed that the name should be amended to just 'Petrel Pond' to avoid having three words in the name.
Iceberg Point	Approved
Natural Arch	Not Approved. The Committee decided that the name would be cartographically ambiguous as it could be confused with a point of interest, as opposed to an official place-name. Also, the generic does not fit the feature definition. The Committee proposed 'Archway Beach' as an alternative.
Special Study Beach	Not approved. The Committee again thought that the name could be confused with a point of interest and were against there being three words in the name. The name 'Study Beach' was proposed as an alternative.
Stinker Point	Approved
Tickell Peak	Approved
West Platform	Not approved. The Committee highlighted that there was no generic in this place-name, so suggested 'Platform Reef' as an alternative.

Following the meeting, the Secretary spoke to Dr Forcada to inform him of the outcome of the proposal. Dr Forcada agreed to accept the proposed names 'Study Beach' and 'Platform Reef' that the Committee had put forward, but said that 'Archway Beach' was inappropriate as the

feature referred to is the arch, not the beach. This feature therefore remains unnamed. With regard to 'Giant Petrel Pond', Dr Forcada thought that the Committee's suggestion of 'Petrel Pond' was not specific enough (as there are many species of Petrel on Bird Island), so proposed the name 'Geep Pond' (short for GP, or Giant Petrel). The Committee considered this proposal via an email vote, and approved the place-name.

#### 11. Place-name amendment – Bird Island APC(12)07

The following place-name amendments are proposed due to the scientific staff at Bird Island referring to these features by different, unofficial place-names. These unofficial names have been commonly used by the staff at Bird Island for decades, so it is proposed that the official names be changed.

Long Ridge	Approved. The previous generic 'crest' was not accurate, so the Committee agreed that it should be changed to accurately reflect the feature type.
Roché Cwm	Not approved. As the feature was originally named in conjunction with Roché Peak, the Committee felt that this place-name should not change.
Tonk Peak	Not approved. The Committee were against removing this honour from Leonhard Stejneger, after whom the peak is named. Instead it was suggested that the description be amended to include the locally used name.

#### 12. New Place-name proposals – Palmer Archipelago APC(12)08

It was suggested that 'The Symplegades' may require a generic, however the Committee felt that this was not necessary as the name was self-explanatory, so was approved. Spert Arch was also approved, however the description needs to be verified first to confirm what '100 m long' refers to.

#### 13. A.O.B.

##### i) Barff and Busen Peninsula naming

Dr Fox informed the Committee that the MAGIC team at BAS has been commissioned by the Government of South Georgia to produce new maps for the Barff and Busen Peninsulas on South Georgia. He therefore informed the Committee that there would potentially be a group

of place-names proposals at the next meeting concerning these regions in order for the names to be put on the new maps.

**ii) Cobălcescu Island name alteration**

The Secretary informed the Committee that there had been a place-name amendment proposed to SCAR CGA concerning the spelling of Cobălcescu Island. The name was applied by the Belgians following an expedition, so we are awaiting confirmation from the Institut Géographique National in Brussels before proceeding with the amendment to the place-name.

**14. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London. The date of the meeting is proposed for a day in the week beginning 15 October 2012, and will be confirmed via email.

Meeting closed at 13:35.