

# **Catterline Braes Action Group AGM**



**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
The Creel Inn, Catterline**

# Agenda

- ◎ Welcome
- ◎ CBAG Objectives
- ◎ Work carried out since April 2019 (last AGM)
- ◎ Work planned for the next 12 months
- ◎ Ideas and suggestions for future work
- ◎ Financial statement
- ◎ Fundraising
- ◎ Committee and Membership
- ◎ AOB

# CBAG Objectives

## CBAG Objectives

- Gain a better understanding into the mechanics of both coastal erosion & land slippage
- Explore mitigation measures to prevent or minimise the effects of both coastal erosion & land slippage:
  - Improved drainage
  - Stabilisation planting programme
  - Physical reinforcement/stabilisation
- Explore joint community project involvement with educational or industry expert resources
- Information & resource sharing with other local communities experiencing similar challenges
- Evaluate cost and/or local labour requirements to support work requirements
- Explore potential funding sources for community based environmental work
- Carry out & complete remedial community work
- Monitor future movement



# Work Caried Out Since April 2019 (Last AGM)

## Work Caried Out Since April 2019

- ◎ General Maintenance (Annually in the Spring and Autumn)
  - Check and clear existing drainage ditches and pipes; most found flowing well, minor corrective work
- ◎ Coastal Path Improvement (April 2019)
  - Materials funded by the Upper Criggie Wind Farm Community Fund
  - Work executed by local volunteers





## Work Caried Out Since April 2019

- ◎ North End Braes Stabilisation – Phase 2 (Summer 2019)
  - Funding awarded from the St. John’s Hill Wind Farm Community Fund
  - The work was completed by local volunteers and comprised of:
    - Levelling of the slope with 60 tonnes of added topsoil
    - Seeding the topsoil with grass
    - Deployment of an erosion control blanket
    - Deployment of a geogrid mesh, secured to the Platipus anchors which were installed in Phase 1





# Work Caried Out Since April 2019





## Work Caried Out Since April 2019

- ◎ An unexpected landslip! (February 2020)
  - Area between North End and Trelong Row
  - Was known to be saturated, but not attended to due to dense vegetation
  - Road down to the harbour blocked
  - Vegetation cleared and drainage ditches and pipes installed by local volunteers
  - Blockage quickly cleared by David Argo 😊





## Work Caried Out Since April 2019

### ◎ OPERANDUM Project / GCU (2021 and 2022)

- The workshop scheduled for the end of March 2020, had to be cancelled last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Despite the ongoing pandemic, a series of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) against landslides and erosion were deployed on the braes in June 2021 with the help of a local contractor (WG Meston) and John Vaughan
- Further NBS measures constructed in June 2022, with the help of Salix and Naturalea, including the site of the unexpected landslip in 2020 and the area below the harbour road top car park
- Dedicated GCU presentation to follow!



## Work Caried Out Since April 2019

### ◎ Coastal Erosion Study (Summer 2022)

- Two distinctly different failure mechanisms:
  1. Landslides triggered due to saturation of soil on the braes
  2. Landslides triggered due to braes being undermined by coastal erosion during high tides and storm conditions
- With the help of GCU and the local community, CBAG have been addressing the first failure mechanism (e.g. drainage solutions, NBS measures, ground anchors, vegetation, etc.)
- The second mechanism is more complex and beyond the capabilities of CBAG and the local community alone
- Project definition document compiled and presented to Aberdeenshire Council in 2021, with the request to undertake an engineering study
- Request declined – Continue to monitor....
- Funding request submitted to the Coastal Communities Challenge Fund, managed by Aberdeenshire Council
- Request for Proposal compiled and issued to a number of AC approved coastal engineering contractors and consultancies
- Funding awarded February 2022!
- Coastal Erosion Study work awarded to JBA - Dedicated Presentation to follow!





# Work Planned For The Next 12 Months

## Work Planned For The Next 12 Months

- ◎ General Maintenance (Annually in the Spring and Autumn)
  - Check/clear existing drainage ditches
  - General inspection of the braes
- ◎ Annual drone survey to monitor for changes
- ◎ Coastal Path Maintenance / Improvement
  - Mesh provides good protection but gets slippery when wet
  - Boards used for the repair of the path further north (April 2019) too weak, causing path to slope downward slightly
  - Liaise with “MerCHaT” (Mearns Coastal Heritage Trail) to build on their experiences, and help them extend the Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path
- ◎ What’s next for the OPERANDUM Project / GCU engagement?
  - To be discussed after their presentation
- ◎ Sea Defences
  - Next steps to be agreed following completion of the coastal erosion study



# Ideas & Suggestions for Future Work



## Ideas & Suggestions for Future Work

- ◎ General maintenance will remain important!
  - Look for wet areas and dig new ditches where required
  - A considerable length of flexible pipe is still available
  - Check/help saplings and add other vegetation
  - Pruning
- ◎ Continued concern regarding the damage caused by rabbits
- ◎ Any other ideas / suggestions?



# Financial Statement

# Financial Statement



		Income	Expenditure	Balance
03.03.2019	Carried Forward			£880.86
20.05.2019	St John's Hill Community Wind Farm Funding	£3,423.66		
20.05.2019	Path Repairs		£314.94	
29.07.2019	Coir Erosion Blanket		£860.88	
29.07.2019	Zurich Insurance Public Liability		£168.00	
05.08.2019	Geogrid		£345.40	
15.08.2019	Platipus Earth Anchoring Systems		£259.36	
25.08.2019	Sub base and granite chips		£199.96	
28.09.2019	Supply of topsoil and digger hire		£1,404.00	
25.06.2020	Repaid Unused Community Wind Farm Funding		£354.06	
04.03.2022	Coastal Communities Challenge Fund	£4,635.60		
27.03.2022	JBA Consulting		£4,635.60	
09.06.2022	Coastal Communities Challenge Fund	£6,798.00		
04.07.2022	JBA Consulting		£6,798.00	
08.08.2022	Coastal Communities Challenge Fund	£5,400.00		
24.08.2022	JBA Consulting		£5,400.00	
11.10.2022	Coastal Communities Challenge Fund	£3,964.80		
27.10.2022	JBA Consulting		£3,964.80	
27.10.2022	RT Joinery		£60.00	
	TOTALS	£24,222.06	-£24,765.00	-£542.94 £337.92
07.11.2022	Bank Statement Balance			£4,362.72
	Unpresented Cheques	JBA		-£3,964.80
		RT Joinery		-£60.00
				£337.92





# Fundraising

## Fundraising

- ⦿ Wind farm community funding
- ⦿ Coastal Communities Fund
- ⦿ How to fund bigger projects, i.e. improve sea defences?
  
- ⦿ Any other thoughts / suggestions?



# Committee and Membership

## Committee and Membership

- ◎ Chairman: Pieter voor de Poorte
- ◎ Treasurer: Frances Crabb
- ◎ Secretary: Debbie Murray

Anybody willing to take over any of these roles or perhaps assist in the running of the CBAG trust? This could include organising (fundraising) events, scoping up and managing discrete bits of work, etc.

CBAG currently has 19 members and 30 'associates' on the mailing list. As per the CBAG constitution, membership is free. Please get in touch if you would like to become a member!





# Any Other Business?

# With Thanks To:

- ⊙ All volunteers!
- ⊙ Glasgow Caledonian University
- ⊙ University of Aberdeen
- ⊙ JBA / Naturalea / Salix / WG Meston
- ⊙ Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund
- ⊙ St John's Hill Wind Farm Community Fund
- ⊙ Upper Criggie Wind Farm Community Fund
- ⊙ Aberdeenshire Council's Coastal Communities Challenge Fund
- ⊙ The Creel Inn!