

## Agenda Item 14

### Meals on Wheels Update:

The Council started running the Meals on Wheels on the week starting the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on a five day a week basis and continued to run at this level until the Luncheon Club re-opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

Provision and staffing for the Meals on Wheels was discussed with staff at this time and it was decided to reduce the Meals on Wheels to Monday-Thursday from the week ending 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The provision was reduced further on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a view to winding down the service.

The users of this service were predominately Barrowford residents with an age range of 70 to 99 years old nearly all living alone with either health or mobility problems. The service has continued at this reduced rate against a backdrop of reduced users through either death or going into permanent care.

There is still a need for Meals on Wheels provision but unfortunately Barrowford Parish Council is probably not the best suited provider through diminished demand at a Barrowford level. The Clerk spoke to Pendleside Hospice some time ago but due to Covid restrictions demand was high with a waiting list. The Clerk has spoken several times to the Chairman about the future of the Meals on Wheels.

Having finished the accounts for the year 2021-22 it has become obvious that things will have to change. The Clerk spoke to the Catering Manager at Pendleside Hospice on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and currently they have spare capacity to provide meals seven days a week at a cost of £6.75 per day. Although this rate is currently higher than what Barrowford Parish Council charges the Parish Council has been operating on a grant subsidised scheme but unfortunately that funding has now been spent.

### Balance Sheets for the Meals on Wheels:

#### Income over expenditure 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021:

<b>Starting Balance B/F</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Meals Cash	16,281.10	Food	9,182.59
Meals Bacs	1,431.00	Equipment	1,161.74
Donations	280.00	Safety Gear	568.76
Grants	11,000.00	Travelling	1,120.04
Vat Reclaims	470.83	Staffing	8,564.32
		General	538.77
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,462.93</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,136.22</b>
Balance B/F	0.00	<b>Vat</b>	<b>470.83</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,462.93</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,607.05</b>
Expenditure	21,607.05		
Surplus	7,855.88		

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**Balance C/F 31/03/21**                      **7,855.88**

### **Income over expenditure 1st April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:**

<b>Starting Balance B/F</b>	<b>7,855.88</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Meals Cash	11,538.00	Food	10,335.64
Meals Bacs	805.00	Equipment	
Luncheon Club	1,645.00	Safety Gear	69.90
Donations	0.00	Travelling	275.00
Grants	0.00	Staffing	10,332.96
Vat Reclaims	160.10	General	575.83
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,148.10</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,589.33</b>
Balance B/F	7,855.88	<b>Vat</b>	<b>160.10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,003.98</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,749.43</b>
Expenditure	21,749.43		
Surplus	254.55		
<b>Balance C/F 31/03/22</b>	<b>254.55</b>		

### **Income over expenditure 1st April 2022 – 9th May 2022:**

<b>Starting Balance B/F</b>	<b>254.55</b>		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Meals Cash	525.00	Food	296.17
Meals Bacs		Equipment	0.00
Luncheon Club	270.00	Safety Gear	0.00
Donations	0.00	Travelling	0.00
Grants	0.00	Staffing	930.00
Vat Reclaims	0.00	General	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>795.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,226.17</b>
Balance B/F	254.55	<b>Vat</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,049.55</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,226.17</b>
Expenditure	1,226.17		
Surplus	-176.62		
<b>Balance C/F 09/05/22</b>	<b>-176.62</b>		

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As can be seen from the figures the Meals on Wheels is now running at a loss to move it to break even would mean increasing prices in line with the Hospice, but if numbers continue to decline then the service would become unsustainable. The ceasing of the Meals on Wheels would have a detrimental effect on the Luncheon Club as numbers have diminished to around 12 per week.

### **Recommendations to the Council:**

- That the Council resolve to end the Meals on Wheels.
- That a six weeks grace period is given from the letter of withdrawal of the service being delivered to users, with the Hospice be promoted as an alternative source.
- That the Council understands that the final losses could be around £1,000.
- That the Luncheon Club is supported until such time as attendance increases.
- Wages for Luncheon Club staff are already included in the budget so no review is necessary until the budget setting process for 2023-24 begins.