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| Title | Interment of Roman Bones |
| Authors | Burial Ground Clerk |
| Meeting | Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Meeting – 14 th October 2024 |

Proposal: Approve the interment of historic bones in a Non-Denominational plot, accompanied by the ashes of a late resident of Goring, subject to securing appropriate government licence.

Goring is the home of an eminent archaeologist and architectural historian, one of only two expert witnesses in their field, they have also provided expert guidance to this Council on difficult planning applications such as the energy plant on the boarder of Goring-on-Thames Parish and South Stoke Parish. They made their home here in Goring with their spouse, who has now sadly passed.

The excavation of bones they have overseen in recent years, has resulted in the collection of the remains approximately 23-25 Romans.

After excavation of any bones, archaeologists need to carefully consider their long term resting place. Collections of significant importance historically have been taken on by museums as part of their wider collection for future study. However storage of artifacts is now at a premium, often, museums seek stipends or ongoing fees to cover the cost of the storage.

It is now time to reinter the bones being held here in the parish by our resident expert archaeologist.

When the licence is issued to excavate historic remains, the location of the reinterment is determined on the licence, to a place often very close to where they were discovered. In the case of these remains, there isn't a place close to where they were removed for them to return to.

We are being asked, by our parish resident, to approve the interment of these ancient remains in our burial ground. After approval by this Council, they will then apply to formally update the original licence to list the Whitehill Burial Ground.

It is the wish of the applicant and their late spouse that the spouse's ashes be interred with the ancient bones.

This would require the purchase of a single depth, full burial plot. Then inter the boxes of ancient bones at the bottom of the grave, return a layer of earth to the plot to cover the bones, and then inter the ashes above, as we do any other ashes interment above a burial. A memorial tablet would likely be placed in time, above the ashes which will also refer to the roman bones below.

The grave would be purchased at the normal, single depth, resident's rate. With resident's rate for grave digging and interment of the ashes.